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IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 | *Fracking revitalizes Ohio plant*
- 4 | *Voter suppression bills aim to dampen turnout*
- 5 | *Fair representation sought in California*
- 6 | *Electricity capacity threatened in plant closures*
Outside line industry effort targets safety
- 7 | *North of 49°*
IEC minutes
- 8 | *Transitions*
- 9 | *NEBF funding notice*
- 10 | *Local Lines*
- 15 | *Founders' Scholarship application*
- 16 | *In Memoriam*
- 18 | *Officers' editorial*
- 19 | *Letters to the Editor*
Who We Are
- 20 | *IBEW protests Verizon cable venture*

Natural Gas Boom Brings New Opportunities, Challenges for IBEW



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The rapid growth of hydraulic fracturing—known as fracking—is changing the energy map of the United States, creating tens of thousands of new jobs.

Williamsport, Pa.—Mud-splattered Ford F-150 pick-up trucks equipped with full tool boxes fill the parking lots of nearly every hotel, motel, bar and restaurant in Lycoming County, sporting license plates from across the country. Workers from Arkansas, Texas, Florida and

even California are descending on this small Rust Belt town, which within the last two years has become one of the hottest job markets in the country.

Until recently, Williamsport was probably the last place you would move if you were looking for work. Passed over by the tech and housing booms of the early- to mid-aughts, this small town of under 30,000 nestled in the Appalachian Mountains in northern Pennsylvania—best known as the birthplace of Little League Baseball—struggled with high unemployment long before the 2008 crash.

“There just wasn’t much happening around here,” says Williamsport Local 812 Business Manager Jim Beamer, who said unemployment among his membership had topped 30 percent for as long as he can remember.

But today almost every Local 812 member is off the book, and the town’s Chamber of Commerce is boasting more than 70 new businesses—from restaurants to construction contractors—in the last two years alone.

The source of Williamsport’s newfound wealth: the Marcellus Shale, a natural gas deposit that runs across the northern section of the Appalachian Mountains from Ohio to New York, an

NATURAL GAS BOOM *continued on page 2*

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Continued from page 1

Natural Gas Boom Brings New Opportunities, Challenges for IBEW

immense supply of domestic energy that has been called America's Saudi Arabia.

Scientists and energy companies had known for years about the deposit, but until now technological limitations made it prohibitively expensive to drill.

Hydraulic fracturing—known as fracking—which involves harvesting natural gas directly from the shale rock, has made shale gas the hottest new energy commodity, injecting billions back into an ailing economy. Natural gas is now being touted by President Obama as a solution to two of the country's most vexing policy problems: establishing energy independence and getting Americans back to work.

"We have a supply of natural gas that can last America nearly 100 years. And my administration will take every possible action to safely develop this energy," Obama said in his January State of the Union address, predicting that the "development of natural gas will create jobs and power trucks and factories that are cleaner and cheaper, proving that we don't have to choose between our environment and our economy."

Shale gas has been discovered in more than 14 states, with active drilling going on throughout the Appalachian region, as well as in the Midwest, West and South, spurring an energy rush not seen since the great Texas oil rush of the first part of the 20th century.

Shale Gas Revolution

For IBEW members in Pennsylvania, hints of that future can be seen now. "The work has really picked up," says Third District Vice President Donald Siegel.

"We've seen a big boost in employment," says Wilkes-Barre Local 163 Business Manager Michael Kwashnik. Across the state, Pittsburgh Local 5 Business Manager Michael Dunleavy says he has more than 200 members working on natural gas projects throughout western Pennsylvania, including wiring new offices for some of the biggest drilling companies, which have set up shop in the shale region.

Pennsylvania has been a center of the shale gas boom, with more than 50,000 new jobs created in the last year alone. And expanded drilling is expected to generate more than \$20 billion for the Keystone state by 2020, say industry experts.

"We're talking potentially tens of thousands of jobs," Siegel says. "Most of them are not IBEW jobs yet, but it is having a positive economic effect in the region, helping our locals in the Third District."

The shale gas revolution is also being credited with stimulating the economy as a whole, experts say. Greater supply caused natural gas prices to plummet by nearly 40 percent between 2008 and



Massive shale gas deposits exist in more than 14 states, with active drilling going on in the Midwest, West and South.

2010, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center's Energy Project, allowing consumers and businesses to make substantial savings on energy costs—savings that can be plowed back into the economy, encouraging further economic growth.

The center's report on shale gas, put together by a group of leading industry, labor and policy experts, says natural gas's growth is also giving a boost to other energy sectors, including renewable energy. It points to Florida Power and Light's 500-acre solar farm in West Palm Beach, which, by being attached to a natural gas power plant, lowered the utility's costs by nearly 20 percent.

Fracking

Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, which have opened up the immense supply of natural gas in the Marcellus Shale to drilling, is a relatively new technology, developed over three decades with assistance from the federal government. The process starts by drilling a deep well. Driving through layers of earth, the drill then makes a gradual horizontal turn through the shale rock. A pipe is then fed into the freshly-drilled well, followed by millions of gallons of water, mixed with sand and various chemicals, which breaks up the rock, releasing the gas inside.

Much of the IBEW work so far has been on compressor stations, which pump the gas through miles of pipes to get it to market. The gas boom has also resulted in thousands of IBEW man-hours of new construction work—from wiring work camps that house out-of-

state workers to new offices for energy companies that have set up shop in the shale region.

Fracking is also laying the foundation for a renaissance of Rust Belt manufacturing as formerly shuttered steel mills reopen to make tubes and other parts needed for drilling. (See sidebar)

Most promising are plans for numerous "cracker" plants that break down natural gas for use in consumer products, which the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette predicts could "promise the kind of construction and job creation not seen in the region since steel's heyday."

Although it is creating work for most of the locals in the heart of the Marcellus Shale, the vast majority of fracking work still remains nonunion.

"These well sites are free-for-alls, with new companies and contractors moving in weekly, mostly bringing in their own workers," says Scranton Local 81 Business Manager Rick Schraeder. While he says he is lucky to have dozens of his members working in the gas industry, he said the IBEW needs to have a long-term plan if it wants to make sure the natural gas boon results in good jobs for Pennsylvania residents.

Organizing in the shale gas fields is proving to be tough going, says Local 812's Beamer. "With all the out-of-state workers, it is hard to find out who is doing the electrical work."

Many of the natural gas companies working in the shale region are based in right-to-work states in the South—Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas—where union members are

scarce, so few of their employees are familiar with organized labor.

"We will go to wherever the workers

are to try to get some leads," Beamer says.

The IBEW is also working with contractors to more aggressively go after drilling jobs, helping to craft more competitive bids and meeting with company officials to directly sell them on what the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association have to offer. "Right now very few of our contractors are going after the work," says Kwashnik. "Compressor stations are our best chance, because they are the most complicated electrical operations on the drilling site and there are very few bids on this work."

Common-Sense Regulations

Besides being less expensive, natural gas is also cleaner than fossil fuels, producing more than 30 percent fewer carbon emissions than coal and oil, initially leading many policy leaders and environmental activists to promote it as a green energy alternative—until some homeowners near fracking sites noticed that their tap water had suddenly become flammable.

Sloppy work was causing methane to leak into local water supplies, turning faucets and showerheads into potential fire hazards. This image of flaming taps, popularized by numerous YouTube



The IBEW and local communities affected by fracking have called on local officials to enact common-sense environmental and safety regulations for the natural gas industry.

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videos, soon became the iconic image of hydraulic fracturing for many Americans.

These revelations, plus concern about potentially carcinogenic chemicals in fracking solutions, has fueled a high-profile battle, pitting conservationists and community leaders against energy companies and pro-drilling elected officials over the potentially harmful effects of gas drilling.

The distance between the shale level and aquifers—usually a mile or more—is large enough to make it unlikely that methane or fracking solution could seep directly into the water table, but only if the job is done right.

“Fractures created during the hydraulic fracturing process are generally unable to span the distance between hydrocarbon and fresh water zones,” says the Bipartisan Policy Center’s Energy Project report. “However there is the potential for fracturing fluids or methane gas to migrate into drinking water resources if wellbore integrity is not assured, or if proper surface handling procedures are not followed.”

These concerns have led lawmakers in New York State, New Jersey and Maryland, all home to massive shale gas deposits, to issue moratoriums on fracking until further environmental studies

can be completed.

Not helping matters is the largely unregulated nature of the industry, due in large part to energy legislation passed under President George Bush, which exempted natural gas companies from clean water regulations—an opt-out known as the “Halliburton loophole” because it is widely perceived to have come about as a result of the efforts of Vice President (and former Halliburton chief executive) Dick Cheney’s Energy Task Force.

The shale gas boon has meant good jobs for the IBEW, but that doesn’t mean that union members don’t share many of the same concerns expressed by green and community activists, Kwashnik says.

“We work here, but we also live here, and once you mess up your water supply, we all have a big problem,” he says, adding that common-sense pollution controls are long overdue. “The days when the coal barons ran this state aren’t so long ago, and we saw the environmental havoc they wreaked when they were able to operate without any rules or regulations.”

Schraeder agrees. “We are telling groups like the Sierra Club that this industry isn’t going away, but we can

partner together to help make it safer and cleaner.”

Lawmakers in states with the biggest concentrations of natural gas drilling, including Pennsylvania, Wyoming and Arkansas, are making moves to beef up environmental enforcement standards. Leading the way is Texas, not traditionally known for its tough regulations, which last summer became the first state requiring companies to disclose the chemicals used in fracking operations.

A big part of insuring environmental safety on drilling projects means making sure they are staffed by an experienced and trained work force, says Schraeder.

He and other business managers from other locals in the Marcellus Shale region are now lobbying members of the Pennsylvania legislature to pass laws requiring a certain percentage of skilled natural gas work be done by graduates of a state-approved apprenticeship program.

“We understand because of interstate commerce, out-of-state workers can’t be stopped from working in our state. However, with the accidents that have already taken place, we need to take a good look at who is doing the work,” Schraeder told legislators in a Feb. 14 letter.

Hardly any of these companies have training programs that can match up with the IBEW’s, Schraeder adds, and when you are dealing with a billion dollar industry with the potential for catastrophic environmental damage, “Do you really want to risk making a mistake?”

Even some of the harshest fracking critics say that the environment-versus-jobs debate provoked by fracking doesn’t have to be an either/or argument. Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, told New York Times reporter Joe Nocera that natural gas can still be the bridge fuel that brings us toward a renewable energy future, but only if states develop “smart regulation that would make fracking environmentally safer.”

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, whose agency is currently looking into the effects of fracking on groundwater and drinking water, agrees, recently telling a gathering of energy industry leaders and environmentalists that fracking can be done cleanly if the companies doing it “take some time to make sure that it’s done right,” according to the Asbury Park Press. “It requires smart regulation, smart rules of the road.” ■

Natural Gas Boom Leads to Industrial Resurgence in Ohio

*They built a blast furnace
Here along the shore
And they made the cannonballs
That helped the Union win the war
Here in Youngstown*

“Youngstown”
Bruce Springsteen

As the natural gas industry leases more land and states debate how to deal with the economic and environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing, an industrial resurgence is heating up in the Mahoning Valley of Ohio. Natural gas extraction requires miles of pipe. And IBEW electricians are helping build the capacity to put more of the tubes on the market.

In a valley where the cold furnaces of a once-powerful steel industry long ago chilled the hope and spirit of surrounding communities, V&M, a France-based manufacturer of seamless pipe, is banking on a \$650-million expansion project to boost profits.

The pipe will primarily supply wells exploiting the shale that lies under parts of Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, reaching into nearby sections of Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee and Virginia and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Before the hot-rolling, seamless pipe mill is complete, it will have employed 300 members of Youngstown Local 64. Electricians are currently installing all the interior equipment, which includes a rotary furnace and a piercing mill that creates the seamless pipe.

V&M’s expansion will add 350 full-time positions to its current work force. The project is the largest private investment in the region since General Motors built the Lordstown assembly plant nearly 40 years ago.

V&M’s expansion was assisted by \$20 million in federal stimulus money—provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—approved by former Democratic Gov. Ted

Strickland to relocate a Norfolk Southern railway line, opening up 100 acres nearby for the industrial development.

“The corridor is looking brighter,” says Local 64 Business Manager Jim Burgham of the locale where 34 years ago on what was called Black Monday, Youngstown Sheet and Tube announced the shutdown memorialized in the song by Bruce Springsteen. Youngstown lost more than half its population since 1950.

At V&M, says Burgham, “Everything is colorful and state-of-the-art.” But even more importantly, he adds, spin-offs from V&M could mean more work for IBEW members and unemployed residents. A sister company is already planning a facility to do high-tech threading and coupling of locally produced pipe.

Mark Skowron, an area foreman for Sargent Electric, began his apprenticeship in 1971 and enjoyed a career built around industrial jobs until Youngstown’s steel industry declined, leaving only a few specialized mills behind.

Skowron, who recently started working on the V&M facility after months of traveling to Pittsburgh and Steubenville, Ohio, for work, says, “The Marcellus and Utica shale formations mean big money and V&M is doing it right.” The company will not only be making pipe, says Skowron, but will also build a water treatment facility. As the new mill ramps up, he expects more industrial, commercial and retail development to follow.

An oil and gas industry study projects more than 200,000 new jobs and \$22 billion in economic gain to Ohio by 2015.

“V&M has used nonunion contractors in the past,” says Skowron. Today, he says, the company praises the quality they are getting from the IBEW. “Our people are doing a great job.” ■

2012 ELECTION AT RISK

Right Wing Targets Voting Rights

Their stories are alarming. Ruthelle Frank, an 81-year-old woman from a small town in Wisconsin who has been voting since 1948, is told she needs to purchase new identification papers to vote in 2012 due to a new voter ID requirement passed by the state legislature.

In Chattanooga, Tenn., Dorothy Cooper, a 96-year-old African-American resident who has cast a ballot in every election since she became eligible to vote, is told she needs new paperwork to vote in 2012.

In a nation that was home to its own bloody battle for voting rights for African-Americans, a nation that sends observers to other countries to oversee fair elections, right-wing legislators in 34 states have introduced voter ID laws that could prevent millions of voters from casting ballots in 2012.

“What has happened this year is the most significant setback to voting rights in this country in a century,” says Judith Browne Dianis, co-director of the Advancement Project, an “action tank” for “those left behind in America.”

“It’s a terrible situation,” says Charles Horhn, 77, who served for 20

years as business manager of a Jackson, Miss., manufacturing local, when asked how he feels about states enacting requirements making it harder for citizens to vote.

Last November, Mississippi passed a photo ID law by referendum as an amendment to the state’s constitution. The divisiveness of the issue can be seen in the turnout. Eighty-three percent of white voters approved the amendment, but less than one-quarter of the African-American voters did.

Recent stories about elderly citizens of all races and nationalities who have voted throughout their lives but are now being asked to go to outrageous lengths to prove their identities evoke painful memories for Horhn, who has worked for 19 years as a district director for Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.).

Horhn remembers having to pay a poll tax and interpret a section of the Mississippi Constitution for poll workers to be permitted to vote back in 1957.

“In some counties,” says Horhn, “if you went to register to vote, you were met with mob violence.” After the Voting Rights Act of 1965 deemed poll taxes illegal, federal marshals protected African-Americans who showed up at the polls, including Horhn’s mother.

Voting-rights advocates are filing suits and mobilizing. Labor and political activists, including IBEW members, are lobbying to stop or limit suppression efforts. But elections have consequences, and Republicans who took office after the 2010 elections are successfully undermining voting rights, including some bipartisan efforts of recent years to extend the franchise.

“The ultra-right’s efforts to disempower voters, like their measures to undermine unions, are dangerous,” says International President Edwin D.



Charlie Horhn

Member Recalls Voting Rights Struggle

Retired International Representative Mary O’Brien worked with Charles Horhn at Presto Manufacturing, assembling crockpots and pressure cookers for Sunbeam and Sears.

O’Brien recalls being accompanied by a federal marshal to register to vote and attending meetings with Claude Ramsey, the white leader of the state’s AFL-CIO, while lying down in the back seat of his car to avoid being seen and drawing white supremacist violence.

The first African-American woman to serve on IBEW’s staff, O’Brien says, “I can’t believe some people today are so nonchalant about their voting rights.”

O’Brien, who retired in 2000, sees similar motivations behind current efforts to keep students from voting in states



Mary O’Brien

where they attend colleges and universities with the struggles in the ’60s.

Powerful voter registration campaigns among students at traditionally black colleges in Mississippi—like Jackson State and Alcorn State—she says, were decisive in breakthrough elec-

tions of Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) and other African-American leaders.

“They kept gerrymandering and redistricting to keep us from electing our own representatives, but we fought back,” says O’Brien.

Even into the early 1970s, says O’Brien, there were still complicated rules for voting. “We found out very quickly that gains that we won in collective bargaining could be wiped away depending upon who was elected,” she says.

The state’s AFL-CIO helped engage members beyond the plant gates, conducting voter registration drives and transporting the elderly to polling places, says O’Brien. New coalitions helped to win mail-in voting and other reforms and elect new clerks who fairly conducted elections across the state. ■

Hill. “They threaten not just the 2012 elections, but our nation’s democracy. To defend working families, we need to defeat voter suppression.”

Too Late for Early Voting?

Among the more unfortunate casualties of the voter suppression campaign is early voting. Once applauded by Republicans and Democrats alike as a means of limiting overcrowding at the polls while recognizing voters’ obligations to jobs and families, early voting is now being pruned back under the leadership of GOP governors in Florida and Ohio. Their motivation is transparent: in 2008, early voters in both important swing states gave candidate Barack Obama an advantage.

Voting on the Sunday before elec-

tions has also been eliminated in Ohio and Florida. Activists say the bans are designed to undermine the traditional and effective efforts of predominantly black and Hispanic churches to mobilize parishioners to vote.

International Representative Brian Thompson, IBEW’s Florida political coordinator, says labor unions and the Democratic Party lobbied hard against voter suppression in that state. Despite those efforts, some severe restrictions were enacted. New voters used to have 10 days to return registration forms; now they only have two days.

And, says Thompson, “Even dedicated non-partisan groups, like the League of Women Voters, have decided to discontinue registering voters due to steep fines for third-party voter registration volunteers.”

Deirdre MacNabb, president of the Florida League of Women Voters, told Talking Points Memo that volunteers would have to have “a secretary on one hand and a lawyer on the other hand” as they registered voters.

Florida college students, who turned out heavily for Barack Obama in 2008, will be forced to vote with provisional ballots if they do not have local addresses on their ID documents.

The U.S. Department of Justice is requesting a trial to decide if Florida’s actions violate Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which requires entire jurisdictions or regions of 16 states to be cleared by the Justice Department’s civil rights division or a federal court before changing election procedures.

“We’re educating our members about the new rules and encouraging

Suppressing the Vote—Who’s Next?

Right-wing politicians have employed numerous tactics as part of their campaign to suppress the vote in 2012 and beyond:

Photo ID Laws—At least 34 states introduced legislation that would require voters to show photo identification in order to vote. Eleven percent, or over 21 million, of American citizens do not possess a government-issued photo ID.

Making Voter Registration Harder—At least 13 states introduced bills to end highly-popular Election Day and same-day voter registration and limit voter registration and other registration opportunities. Maine, for instance, passed a law eliminating Election Day registration.

Reducing Early and Absentee Days—At least nine states introduced bills to reduce their early voting periods and four tried to reduce absentee voting opportunities.

Disenfranchising Voters with Criminal Records—Across the U.S., 5.3 million Americans are not allowed to vote because of criminal convictions. Of those, 4 million have completed their sentences and live, work and raise families in their communities.

The U.S. is one of only two countries that disenfranchise large numbers of persons for lengthy or indefinite periods after they have completed their time in prison. In Iowa and Florida, Republicans reversed prior laws that restored voting rights of formerly incarcerated persons.

Proof of Citizenship Laws—Twelve states have introduced legislation that would require proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, to register or vote.

In an op-ed in the *New York Times*, Alexander Keyssar, a professor of history at Harvard University, compared modern-day efforts to limit voting by immigrants to a 1921 English-language literacy requirement that remained in force in New York State for decades. He said, “The targets of exclusionary laws have tended to be similar for more than two centuries: the poor, immigrants, African-Americans, people perceived to be something other than ‘mainstream’ Americans. No state has ever attempted to disenfranchise upper-middle-class or wealthy white male citizens.”

Voter Caging—The organization One Wisconsin Now says the Republican Party in Wisconsin, along with Americans for Prosperity and Tea Party groups, are engaging in “voter caging.” They are sending out official-looking mail to registered voters. If the mail—usually targeting students and members of the military—is returned to the sender, the letter can be used to challenge their votes on Election Day with claims the address is not valid. ■

Sources: Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law, *One Wisconsin Now*.



Members of Los Angeles Local 11 traveled to Alabama to commemorate the 47-year anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march that helped win the Voting Rights Act of 1965. From left are Herb Lyons, Tom DeMoore, Diana Limon, Business Manager Marvin Kropke and Luis Arida.

them to re-register if necessary,” says Thompson.

Phony Fraud Allegations

Legislators who endorse new voter ID laws and other restrictive measures say they are necessary to prevent voting fraud. A deeper look shows no evidence of widespread fraud anywhere in the U.S., but rather a deliberate campaign going back decades to suppress the vote in minority and working-class communities more likely to elect candidates who will support unions, the elderly and the unemployed.

After taking office in 2001, the Bush administration announced that investigations of voting fraud would be a “top priority” for federal prosecutors. However, between 2002 and 2007, they brought no prosecutions charging individuals with impersonating voters.

Last year, after South Carolina was sued by the U.S. Department of Justice, which alleged that the state’s voter ID law was discriminatory, the director of motor vehicles drew national attention alleging that more than 950 eligible voters on the state’s list were actually deceased. South Carolina’s attorney general later refuted the DMV’s allegation.

“It is more likely that an individual will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls,” the New York University School of Law Brennan Center for Justice, a well-

respected advocate for voting rights, reported in 2007.

Disenfranchisement Campaign has Deep Roots

The most recent wave of voter suppression goes back several years. In 2008, the Bush administration supported Indiana in the U.S. Supreme Court in defense of the state’s voter ID law, one of the nation’s first since the Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed poll taxes, literacy tests and other measures.

President Obama’s winning campaign that year drew upon the votes of record numbers of union members, students, low-income voters, people of color and recent immigrants. The African-American vote increased more than 15 percent since the 2004 elections. For Latinos, the increase was 28 percent.

These communities are the ones whose votes would be disproportionately affected by voter suppression and anti-immigrant laws.

The Brennan Center reports that states that have already cut back on voting rights will provide 191 electoral votes—more than 63 percent of the 270 needed to win the presidency. Out of 12 likely battleground states, four have already limited some voting rights, and two more are considering new restrictions.

2010 Republican Wave Behind Suppression

Six hundred Republican legislators and governors who won office in the 2010 midterm elections fuel the current flurry of bills to restrict voting and set a more favorable table for their party in 2012.

Citizens United, the Supreme Court decision that sanctioned unlimited corporate political spending, is boosting the right-wing campaigns. So are negative ads funded by so-called “super PACs,” the political action committees that now collect those unlimited funds to fuel mostly negative political ads.

Now, the American Legislative Exchange Council—funded by millions of dollars from wealthy ideologues like the Kansas-based billionaire Koch brothers—is establishing the voter suppression agenda. More than 2,000 state legislators belong to ALEC, which churns out proposed legislation to limit collective bargaining rights of public workers, prevent health insurance reform legislation and regulations to protect workers and consumers. In state houses across the country, these bills are introduced by legislators, sometimes verbatim.

Funded by more than 300 corporate members, including union-organized giants like AT&T, UPS and Verizon, ALEC has developed the most recent national voter suppression strategy, its roots go much deeper.

Donald Cohen, the director of the Cry Wolf Project, a Web site designed to refute the right-wing’s manipulation of facts, points to 1970s brainstorming sessions sponsored the Conference Board, a mainstream business organization. He says: “The [top business executives] openly expressed their worries whether democracy, in the long run, was even compatible with capitalism.” A participant, he reports, said: “One man, one vote has undermined the power of business in all capitalist countries since World War II.”

‘I Don’t Want Everybody to Vote’

Thirty years later, writes Cohen, Grover Norquist, one of the nation’s most influential conservatives, published an article in the *American Spectator* that focused on “knocking down the five pillars” of Democratic Party support. His fifth pillar, after unions, trial lawyers, federally funded nonprofit social service providers, and big city political machines, was “voter fraud.”

In a *Rolling Stone* story, “The GOP War on Voting,” Ari Berman reports that Paul Weyrich, an influential conserva-

tive, told a group of evangelical leaders in 1980, “I don’t want everybody to vote ... As a matter of fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting population goes down.”

Dirty Tricks

Some moves to restrict voting take place far away from state legislative chambers, close to or on Election Day. A Maryland case typifies eleventh-hour dirty tricks that have been employed for years.

In 2010, former Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich’s campaign manager approved an Election Day robocall to thousands of voters, mostly African-American, to close out Ehrlich’s re-match with Democratic Gov. Martin O’Malley.

Designed to suppress the black vote, the robocall told recipients to “relax,” notifying them that O’Malley had won even though the polls had not closed. The robocall was designed to sound like it was coming from the Democratic Party to keep voters home.

But, finally, some justice is being achieved. Last December, Ehrlich’s cam-

paign manager, Paul Schurick, was found guilty of fraud for the deceptive calls. State prosecutor Emmet C. Davitt told the *Baltimore Sun* he believed the conviction was the first under a 2006 addition to the Voter Rights Protection Act that made it illegal to use deceptive messaging to influence a voter’s decision to go to the polls.

Says International President Edwin D. Hill, “We need to challenge voter suppression everywhere it rears its head, whether it is accomplished legally or against the law. But our very best defense is mobilizing as many members, neighbors and community members as possible to go to the polls and elect candidates who stand by workers and our families.”

On March 12, the Justice Department blocked Texas from enforcing a new law requiring voters to present photo identification at polling places charging that the law would disproportionately lower turnout among eligible Hispanic voters. Another voter suppression law was blocked by a judge in Dane County, Wis.

The IBEW will report on new developments in the voter suppression battle on www.ibew.org. ■

Building Trades Joins Fight for Voter Rights in California

Escondido, Calif., is nearly half Latino, but you wouldn’t know it looking at its elected officials. One of San Diego County’s oldest cities, Escondido—located just north of San Diego—has elected only two Latinos to its city council in its 123-year history.

And this has community and labor activists crying foul. Now civil rights leaders, community activists and the state Building and Construction Trades Council have joined together to file a lawsuit charging the city with violating the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 2001 California Voting Rights Act.

“A lot of neighborhoods aren’t reflected on the council,” says San Diego Local 569 Business Manager Johnny Simpson.

Activists are pushing for the city to change from citywide to district elections for council seats, which they say would make the council more representative of the city as a whole.

Escondido resident Demetrio Gomez, a member of the local building trades, was quoted by the *North County Times* as testifying before the council that “there are no representatives from our large Latino neighborhoods, and this council is elected by—and caters to—wealthier non-Latinos.”

The council’s exclusion of Latinos has gone hand in hand with an aggressive anti-worker policy. The city’s elected leaders are currently trying to exempt Escondido from prevailing wage rules that set a bar on wages and benefits for city construction projects.

“These kind of actions not only hurt our members, but Escondido residents as well, many of whom make a living in construction,” says Simpson.

Attorneys for the city counterattacked, filing a motion to remove the building trades as plaintiff. Councilwoman Olga Diaz, the sole Latino on the council and a supporter of the lawsuit, says that her colleagues are trying to remove the building trades from the suit because the unions are paying for the lawyers in the case.

But Simpson says that regardless of what the city says, voting rights is a workers’ rights issue. “Most Latino residents in Escondido are workers, and many are union members and any attempt to deny them a voice in their own city is an attack on working people everywhere.” ■

Coal Plant Shutdowns Threaten Blackouts



Madison, Wis.'s Blount Street plant is operated by members of Local 2304.

As utility companies face new deadlines for coal-fired power plants to comply with tight new EPA clean air regulations, many energy suppliers have plans to shutter plants that employ thousands of IBEW members rather than invest in costly upgrades.

If thousands of megawatts are suddenly taken off-line, this could trigger massive electricity shortages, just as demand is expected to increase, according to a regional transmission organization report.

A report from PJM, a regional transmission organization covering 13 states and the District of Columbia, estimates that 18,000 megawatts of electricity will be lost to the power grid due to expected coal plant shutdowns. That's the loss of enough power to light and heat 18 million homes.

"Our nation is facing a potential emergency," says IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter. "The well-researched projection from PJM far exceeds the predictions of EPA regulators on power lost to the grid from coal plant closures. Add to this number the resulting damage from dozens more shutdowns in the Midwest and Southeast, and America could have a real electrical reliability crisis as well as large increases in electric prices to consumers."

The EPA's latest standards for mercury and toxic pollutants are the product of a court order that goes back to the Bush administration, which failed to enforce prior regulations. The standards are accompanied by three-year deadlines that should be revisited, say union and company leaders. More regulations are expected to be issued soon.

The IBEW is supporting a bill sponsored by Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Dan Coats (R-Ind.) to delay implementation of the EPA rule on cross-state air pollution by three years and the controls

over mercury and toxins by two years. The measure coordinates both rules since the pollution control equipment is the same to achieve compliance for each.

Coal-fired power plants supply 46 percent of U.S. energy needs. So the EPA's deadlines and decisions by utility companies to take coal plants off-line

"Let's not repeat the errors of the past by making regulations so tight that they strangle supply and economic recovery."

— Jim Hunter,
IBEW Utility Department Director

won't just affect the jobs of men and women in those plants and their surrounding communities. New projections by companies and regulators responsible for power transmission confirm fears that premature shutdowns could lead to rolling blackouts, threatening even more jobs and economic recovery.

Predictions are never precise, says Hunter, but policymakers should listen to the voices of the men and women who work around the clock to supply power to their communities. He says, "Some so-called experts have always questioned our union's numbers, saying they aren't derived from sophisticated computer-generated modeling, but the most recent research is confirming the value of our real-world experience."

Prior to PJM's study, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

released a 10-year projection of U.S. electrical power production. According to the report, "The nation's power grid will be stressed in ways never before experienced."

America's thirst for energy to power our appliances, homes and businesses is growing despite the economic recession, says Hunter. While the EPA has greater legal authority than most agencies responsible for the delivery of reliable electric power, "The EPA's authority needs to be judiciously exercised," says Hunter.

Lost electrical power is not easily replaced. It takes a long time for permitting, licensing and construction of new energy sources. Says Hunter, "It wasn't long ago that our unions raised objections to utility deregulation only to see many of our concerns vindicated by subsequent failures. Let's not repeat the errors of the past by making regulations so tight that they strangle supply and economic recovery."

International President Edwin D. Hill says the Obama administration has made important strides in the president's goal of an "all of the above" energy policy that includes licensing the first new nuclear reactor in many years and increased incentives for developing renewable and domestic fossil fuel sources.

IBEW members across North America, says Hill, are hard at work on large-scale wind and solar power projects to boost our nation's renewable energy portfolio to reduce pollution and global warming.

"As responsible members of our communities, we will always insist on an approach to energy conversion that balances our desire for clean air with sound policy choices that consider the needs of workers, consumers and our nation's economic base," says Hill. ■

IBEW Encourages Outside Line Workers to 'Stand Down for Safety'

All eyes will be on safety the week of May 7, as the Electrical Transmission and Distribution Partnership sponsors its first-ever national safety stand down for those in the outside line construction industry to focus on the importance of a safe and healthy workplace.

Made up of outside line contractors, the IBEW and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the partnership was formed in 2004 to reduce the number of on-the-job accidents in the high-voltage electric line construction industry, one of the most dangerous in North America.

During the safety stand down week, workers will take an hour out of their day to participate in workplace safety educational activities at locations across the country.

"We are encouraging locals to partner with contractors to put their undivided attention on safety the week of May 7," says IBEW Safety Department Director Jim Tomaseski, who serves on the partnership's steering committee.

Education is key to increasing safety, says Tomaseski. More than 700 managers and 3,000 workers have gone through the partnership's training program since its formation, which member company Quanta Services, Inc. Chief Executive John Wilson credits with a drop in fatal accidents in the utility construction industry.

Illness and injury rates have been trending downward since 2005, says Wilson, but the work is not done: "Our goal is to continually improve safety numbers."

Today the strategic partnership represents approximately 80 percent of workers in the line construction industry.

"Workers in the electrical transmission and distribution industry are counting on us to work together to ensure that their workplaces are safe," said Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. "With this national electrical safety stand down, this strategic partnership demonstrates the commitment of its participants to ensuring that each worker returns home safe and healthy at the end of every single day."

Go to www.powerlinesafety.org for more information. ■



Best Safety Practices for Outside Line Construction Industry

During the week of May 7, outside construction workers, employers and contractors will take an hour out of their day to review the eight best industry practices to ensure safety:

Administrative Controls: Do proper job planning and risk assessment.

Pre-Use Inspection of Rubber Protective Equipment: Inspect all rubber goods before use.

Insulate & Isolate Safety Performance Check: Review all safety procedures to make sure they comply with existing safety standards.

Cradle-to-Cradle Use of Insulating Rubber Gloves and Sleeves: Remind workers to always use proper rubber gloves and sleeves when the job calls for it.

Lock-to-Lock Use of Insulating Rubber Gloves and Sleeves: Institute proper procedures to protect workers in the time just prior to pad-mounted equipment being unlocked until the job is done.

Rubber Insulating PPE for the Live Line Tool Method on Distribution Lines: Review the proper safety steps before working in a live-line situation.

Job Briefings: Review safety plan with crew before job starts.

Qualified Observer: Know the qualifications needed to be a safety observer. ■



North of 49° | Au nord du 49° parallèle

Ontario Municipal Workers Win Voice with the IBEW

When the largely white-collar work force for the town of Midland, Ontario, decided to organize, the IBEW—a union of mostly blue-collar electrical workers—wasn't necessarily at the top of anyone's list.

"Employees had contacted a few other public sector unions first, but never heard back," says Toronto Local 636 Business Manager Barry Brown.

Brown says the lack of interest might have been related to the small size of the unit. At only 28 workers, it wasn't the biggest organizing target around, but as Brown says: "It might not have been very big for them, but it was big enough for us to get involved."

Last January, Midland employees—

mainly office staff at town agencies—became the newest members of Local 636, voting 27-1 in favor of the IBEW. Brown told Simcoe.com, "It's not just about what the name of the union is; it's about what the union can do for them."

Workers' interest in collective bargaining was piqued after a group of newly elected town councilors announced they were considering major cutbacks—all without consulting employees first. "They realized that they needed to have a voice on the job if they were to have any say about the future of their workplace," Brown says. "Over the years, we have signed contracts at towns here and there, so we were familiar with public sector bargaining."

Workers signed cards in January and the IBEW petitioned the Ontario

Labour Board for an election. Under provincial law, elections must be held within one week after a petition is filed.

Helping to make the case for the IBEW was Midland Chief Administrative Officer Ted Walker, who had previously worked for another town represented by Local 636.

"We had a constructive relationship with Walker when he was at his old job, and that fact convinced many employees that they could have a similar relationship in Midland," Brown says.

The new members are currently negotiating their first contract. "It doesn't matter if you wear a hard hat or a tie to work, everyone needs a voice on the job," says First District Vice President Phil Flemming. ■

Les travailleurs municipaux de l'Ontario gagnent une voix avec la FIOE

Lorsque la majorité des cols blancs de la ville de Midland en Ontario ont décidé de se syndiquer, la FIOE—un syndicat regroupant principalement des cols bleus qui travaillent dans l'industrie de l'électricité—ne figurait pas nécessairement en tête de liste des syndicats pour eux.

« Les employés avaient d'abord communiqué avec d'autres syndicats du secteur public mais ces derniers ne les ont jamais rappelés » dit Barry Brown, gérant d'affaires de la section locale 636 de Toronto.

Selon le confrère Brown, le manque d'intérêt des autres syndicats pourrait être relié au nombre peu imposant de travailleurs inclus dans l'unité. Ces 28 travailleurs ne représentaient pas une cible de syndicalisation assez importante. « La cible n'était peut-être pas assez intéressante pour eux, mais pour nous, elle valait la peine qu'on s'implique ».

Suite au vote qui a eu lieu en janvier dernier, les employés de la ville de Midland, principalement le personnel de

bureau des organismes municipaux, sont devenus les tout nouveaux membres de la section locale 636 en votant à 27 contre 1 en faveur de leur adhésion à la FIOE. Le confrère Brown déclarait ce qui suit sur Simcoe.com : « Ce n'est pas seulement le nom du syndicat qui importe mais c'est ce que le syndicat peut faire pour eux ».

Après qu'un groupe de nouveaux élus municipaux aient annoncé qu'ils envisageaient de procéder à des compressions majeures, sans avoir d'abord consulté les employés, ces derniers ont manifesté de l'intérêt pour la négociation collective. « Ils ont réalisé qu'ils avaient besoin d'une voix au travail s'ils voulaient avoir leur mot à dire sur l'avenir de leur lieu de travail » ajoute-t-il.

« Au fil des ans, nous avons signé des conventions collectives avec différentes villes ici et là; nous étions donc familiers avec la négociation collective dans le secteur public » déclare le confrère Brown.

Les travailleurs ont signé une carte d'adhésion au mois de janvier puis la FIOE a adressé une requête à la Commission

des relations de travail de l'Ontario pour la tenue d'un scrutin de représentation. En vertu de la loi provinciale, le scrutin doit avoir lieu dans un délai d'une semaine après le dépôt de la requête.

L'administrateur en chef de la ville de Midland, Ted Walker, qui a déjà travaillé dans une autre ville avec des employés représentés la section locale 636 nous a aidés en plaidant en faveur de la FIOE.

« Nous avons entretenu des rapports constructifs avec M. Walker dans ses fonctions précédentes, ce qui a grandement contribué à convaincre plusieurs employés qu'il pourrait y avoir des rapports similaires à Midland » souligne le confrère Brown.

Les nouveaux membres sont actuellement en négociation pour le règlement de leur première convention collective. « Peu importe que vous portiez un casque de sécurité ou une cravate pour travailler, tout le monde a besoin d'une voix pour se faire entendre à son travail » conclut le confrère Phil Flemming, Vice-président international du Premier District. ■

January International Executive Council Meeting

Minutes and Report of The International Executive Council's Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Pierson, on Friday, January 20, 2012, in Naples, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Lavin, Calabro, Calvey, Clarke, Smith, Furer, Riley and Walter.

International President Hill

International President Edwin D. Hill met with the members of the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States.

Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

Financial Reports

The International Secretary-Treasurer's Reports for the various funds of the Brotherhood were presented to the members of the International Executive Council, examined, approved and filed.

Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision

International President Hill advised the council members that there are no local unions under the supervision of the International Office at this time.

Financial Statements for Political Education

Reviewed, Approved and Filed

IBEW and Subsidiaries— Consolidated Financial Statements for December 31, 2011

Reviewed, Approved and Filed

IBEW Headquarters Building LLC — Financial Statements for December 31, 2011

Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Trust for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund and Subsidiaries Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2011

Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Pension Plan for International Officers, Representatives and Assistants of the IBEW Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Pension Plan for Office Employees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Article XX and XXI Cases

During 2011, the IBEW was involved in one dispute under Article XX of the AFL-CIO Constitution, Manhattan College, in Riverdale, New York, (UNITE/HERE and IBEW Local Union 1158). UNITE/HERE has been handbilling outside Gourmet Dining operations at various universities in New Jersey. The IBEW has filed counter-charges against UNITE/HERE, arguing that this conduct violates Article XX, Sections 2 & 3. A mediation of this dispute was held on January 11, 2012. There were no disputes involving organizing responsibilities under Article XXI. IP Hill reported those two issues and discussed the parameters with the IEC.

Retirement of International Representative

Arthur D. Murray, International Representative Ninth District Effective—March 1, 2012

Birth Date Changes

Membership in L.U.

Coleman, George H.	0769
MacDonald, Ronald G.	0625
Mulcahy, Patrick W.	0233
Whalen, John T.	0804

The Next Regular International Council Meeting

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned, on Friday, January 20, 2012, at 5:05 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, in Colorado Springs.

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary
January 2012

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. For a complete listing, consult www.ibew.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page. ■

Transitions

DECEASED Robert Williams



We are saddened to report that retired Eleventh District International Representative Robert Williams died on February

11 at the age of 93.

Born in Dexter, Iowa, Brother Williams, an inside journeyman wireman, served as business manager of Des Moines Local 347 from 1963 to 1976, when he was appointed to the International staff.

A U.S. Navy Seabee veteran of World War II, Williams also served as president of the Iowa State Building Trades and on the state's affirmative action council and higher education commission.

In retirement, Brother Williams enjoyed meeting with other pensioners as a member of Local 347's retiree club, following sports and building model ships. He was a 50-year member of the Auburn-Union Park Masonic Lodge.

The officers and staff send our deep condolences to Zola Williams, Brother Williams' wife of 71 years, and to his son, Lonnie Williams. ■

RETIRED John Amodeo



Third District International Representative John Amodeo retired effective April 1 after four decades of service to the IBEW.

Brother Amodeo was initiated into East Windsor, N.J., Local 827 in 1972, starting as a cable splicer at New Jersey Bell Telephone. With only three months in the shop, IBEW representatives tapped him for a steward position. "They told me that they needed someone with courage to step up and take the job."

"My goal was always to get the best deal possible for working people."

— John Amodeo

It was a fitting move for Amodeo, who grew up in a union, pro-worker household. His father was employed by the railroads as a Transport Workers Union member, and his mother was a welder in the Camden shipyards during World War II.

"My parents made sure that I grew

up reading about and understanding labor history," Amodeo said. "I knew about the IWW before I knew about Mickey Mouse."

Brother Amodeo served as the chief steward on the local's general committee, representing 1,200 members in the southern part of the state. Amodeo was active in negotiating contracts and helped organize public workers in Atco and Waterford townships. Following service as chairman of the safety committee and four years on the executive board, he was elected vice president in 1986. In this role, Amodeo represented about 13,000 workers statewide in various fields like manufacturing and government as well as telecommunications. "My goal was always to get the best deal possible for working people," he said.

IBEW President J.J. Barry appointed Amodeo as International Representative in 1988. Amodeo was initially one of two representatives tasked with servicing more than a dozen telecommunications locals, which had a combined membership of nearly 20,000. For the next two decades, he was instrumental in developing and delivering steward trainings while handling grievances, negotiations and arbitrations. One of his largest projects was helping secure a contract for 75,000 IBEW and CWA members working at Bell Atlantic (later Verizon) in the early '90s.

Amodeo earned his bachelor's degree from the National Labor College and his master's in Legal and Ethical Studies from the University of Baltimore. "My training in legal research and writing was directly beneficial to my work for the IBEW," he said. "Typically, the companies we were at the table with would fly in an attorney. I wanted to be able to boost my level of expertise in taking on some of these guys while equalizing the playing field for the members I was representing."

The former Army reservist was vice president of the Camden/Gloucester Central Labor Council. Amodeo's two brothers were also Local 827 members, and Patricia, his wife of 43 years, was a vice president of a CWA local.

Amodeo says that he looks forward to spending more time with Patricia and their daughters Andrea and Gabrielle. He also plans to become more involved in community service, and may continue his hobby as a private pilot.

"Looking back, I don't know that I would have done anything differently," Amodeo said. "I always tried to give 100 percent to the membership and the union."

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Amodeo a happy, healthy and enjoyable retirement. ■

RETIRED Daniel Hetzel



Seventh District International Representative Daniel Hetzel retired effective March 31, after more than four decades of service to the IBEW.

Brother Hetzel was initiated into Beaumont, Texas, Local 479 in 1969. Enrolled at Lamar University, he initially planned to become a high school coach, but decided to switch gears after comparing a teacher's salary with that of an electrician. "My dad was an IBEW member, and after finding out what he made, I decided to follow him into the field," he says.

"We have a big election coming up, and I will be working with COPE to make sure we stand by candidates who stand by working people."

— Daniel Hetzel

He was appointed steward the first year he turned out. "It was a lot easier back then to do the job," he says. "Employers and labor understood that it was in everyone's interest to work together to solve problems in the workplace."

Hetzel became popular on the job and was encouraged by members to run for business manager. "I wasn't sure I wanted to do it," he says. But after talking with fellow Local 479 member Michael Blanchard, Hetzel says he agreed to serve as assistant business manager if Blanchard—who retired as a Seventh District International Representative in 2009—ran for the top post. Both won.

Brother Hetzel would serve as assistant business manager for eight years, before becoming business manager in his own right in 1993. He says his No. 1 priority as a local leader was jobs. "I focused on working with our contractors to maximize work for Local 479 members," helping to get the local's first market recovery program off the ground.

He was appointed International Representative by International President Edwin D. Hill in 2001. Tasked with servicing construction locals throughout Texas, he worked to help grow the union in the Lone Star State.

In addition to his service to the IBEW, Hetzel served on the Sabine Area Central Labor Council and on the executive board of the Texas AFL-CIO.

While planning to spend more time fishing, golfing and spending quality time with his wife Edna, he says retirement doesn't mean the end of his involvement in the labor movement. "We have a big election coming up, and I will be working with COPE to make sure we stand by candidates who stand by working people," he says. He has one daughter and two grandchildren.

On behalf of the IBEW, the officers and staff wish Brother Hetzel a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement. ■

RETIRED Art Murray



Ninth District International Representative Art Murray retired effective March 1 after more than 40 years of service to the IBEW.

Brother Murray was initiated into Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245—then located in Walnut Creek—in 1970 after two tours of duty in Vietnam. He spent his time in the service with the Navy Seabees Construction Battalion 10, where his budding construction skills helped serve his fellow servicemen and women.

"I was 19 years old, running crews building bridges and other large structures in Vietnam, and I was in charge of the guys operating pile drivers, cranes and other heavy equipment—as well as the carpenters, plumbers and surveyors," Murray said. "It was an unbelievable experience."

"Some of the most satisfying times ... were watching the successful organizing campaigns."

— Art Murray

Murray started as a groundman at Pacific Gas and Electric, quickly moving into the lineman apprenticeship program. Before leaving PG&E, he also became certified to work in the gas division—then a rarity for a journeyman linemen.

"My dad was a gas serviceman with PG&E and one of the reasons I joined the IBEW," Murray said. "I knew it would be steady work and a solid career path while raising a family."

Murray served as a shop steward for 15 years before becoming a business representative in 1985. He serviced members at PG&E as well as the growing number of line clearance tree trimmers working for contractors in the area.

He was appointed assistant business manager in 1998. In that role, he

represented thousands of members, most of whom worked for his longtime employer, as well as all other private utility members, line clearance tree trimmers, and outside construction workers.

Murray was responsible for coordinating activities for numerous business representatives at the local while overseeing apprenticeship training and health and safety programs and issues.

President Edwin D. Hill appointed Murray International Representative in 2002. Murray's first task was industrial organizing throughout the Ninth District. He later supported five locals in California and Nevada—Los Angeles Local 18; Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47; Las Vegas Local 396; San Diego Local 465; and Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245.

With 42,000 members spread across various classifications—such as utility, line clearance tree trimming, telecommunications, and outside construction—Murray lived on the road for up to a third of the year traversing the wide western expanse between various locals.

"Some of the most satisfying times as a representative were watching the successful organizing campaigns," he said, pointing to a recent win for 900 workers and new members of San Diego Local 465 at utility Imperial Irrigation District who voted for the IBEW and inked their first contract after a long effort by a dedicated group of workers at IID under the direction of Business Manager John Hunter.

Outside of official union duties, Murray sharpened his skills in labor and health and safety courses at U.C. Berkeley, and he attended the NJATC National Training Institute in Knoxville, Tenn., in the mid '90s, where he became an OSHA 10-hour and 30-hour certified trainer. He was also a Red Cross certified CPR, automated external defibrillator and first aid instructor.

Murray said one of his proudest achievements was his 2001 appointment to the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board by Gov. Gray Davis. In his seven and a half years on the board, he was one of only seven experts responsible for any changes to the state's OSHA rules and regulations.

Murray looks forward to spending more time with his wife Brenda, his three children and five grandchildren. In addition to numerous home improvement projects and rounds on the golf course, Murray plans to travel to "some of the most beautiful parts of the country I've ever seen," such as Hawaii and Wyoming.

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Murray a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement. ■

ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE for National Electrical Benefit Fund

Introduction

This notice includes important information about the funding status of your pension plan (“the plan”) and general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”), a federal insurance agency. All traditional pension plans (called “defined benefit pension plans”) must provide this notice every year regardless of their funding status. This notice does not mean that the plan is terminating. In fact, despite the difficult economic times and the market losses in 2008, the plan has substantially rebounded. As a result, the plan is in sound financial condition and is considered a “green zone” plan (rather than a plan in endangered or critical status). This notice is provided for informational purposes and you are not required to respond in any way. This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011 (“plan year”).

How Well Funded Is Your Plan?

Under federal law, the plan must report how well it is funded by using a measure called the “funded percentage.” This percentage is obtained by dividing the plan’s assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date for the plan year. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. Your plan’s funded percentage for the plan year and each of the two preceding plan years is set forth in the chart below, along with a statement of the value of the plan’s assets and liabilities for the same period.

Funded Percentage			
	2011 Plan Year	2010 Plan Year	2009 Plan Year
Valuation Date	January 1, 2011	January 1, 2010	January 1, 2009
Funded Percentage	87.56%	86.05%	82.08%
Value of Assets	\$12,081,071,780	\$11,647,332,263	\$10,787,685,180
Value of Liabilities	\$13,797,816,770	\$13,534,912,452	\$13,142,152,828

The funded percentage and value of assets shown above reflect the election of funding relief under the Preservation of Access to Care of Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010.

Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date for the plan year and are actuarial values. Because market values can fluctuate daily based on factors in the marketplace, such as changes in the stock market, pension law allows plans to use actuarial values that are designed to smooth out those fluctuations for funding purposes. The asset values below are market values and are measured as of the last day of the plan year, rather than as of the Valuation Date. Substituting the market value of assets for the actuarial value used in the above chart would show a clearer picture of a plan’s funded status as of the Valuation Date. The fair market value of the plan’s assets as of the last day of the plan year and each of the two preceding plan years (to match the Valuation Dates) is shown in the following table:

	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$10,033,124,834	\$10,345,846,338	\$9,706,110,219

Critical or Endangered Status

Under federal pension law a plan generally will be considered to be in “endangered” status if, at the beginning of the plan year, the funded percentage of the plan is less than 80 percent or in “critical” status if the percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). If a pension plan enters endangered status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a pension plan enters critical status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Rehabilitation and funding improvement plans establish steps and benchmarks for pension plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time.

The plan was not in endangered or critical status in the plan year.

Participant Information

The total number of participants in the plan as of the plan’s Valuation Date, January 1, 2011, was 488,864. Of this number, 216,081 were active participants, 114,533 were retired or separated from service and receiving benefits, and 158,250 were retired or separated from service and entitled to future benefits.

Funding and Investment Policies

Every pension plan must have a procedure for establishing a funding policy to carry out plan objectives. A funding policy relates to the level of assets needed to pay for benefits promised under the plan currently and over the years. The funding policy of the plan is to ensure that the employer contributions to the plan, coupled with long-term investment returns, will keep the plan financially secure and permit the plan to meet all current and future liabilities. The Trustees have determined that the 3% of gross labor payroll contribution rate will continue to satisfy this funding policy.

Once money is contributed to the plan, the money is invested by plan officials called fiduciaries, who make specific investments in accordance with the plan’s investment policy. Generally speaking, an investment policy is a written statement that provides the fiduciaries who are responsible for plan investments with guidelines or general instructions concerning investment management decisions. The investment policy of the plan is to select a diversified investment portfolio designed to balance risk and return, and to hire or contract with professional investment staff and advisers to ensure that the allocation of investments are prudent and that the individual investment funds and managers are achieving the goals established by the plan.

Under the plan’s investment policy, the plan’s assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the plan year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocations	Percentage
Cash (Interest bearing and non-interest bearing)	0.39%
U.S. Government securities	6.31
Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	–
All other	8.97
Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	0.06
Common	21.37
Partnership/joint venture interests	8.92
Real estate (other than employer real property)	0.06
Loans (other than to participants)	0.94
Participant loans	–
Value of interest in common/collective trusts	36.21
Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	0.73
Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	0.13
Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	–
Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1.87
Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	–
Employer-related investments:	
Employer securities	–
Employer real property	–
Buildings and other property used in plan operation	0.07
Other	13.97

For information about the plan’s investment in any of the following types of investments as described in the chart above—common / collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trust investment accounts, or 103-12 investment entities—contact the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, or (301) 556-4300.

Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

A pension plan is required to file with the US Department of Labor an annual report called the Form 5500 that contains financial and other information about the plan. Copies of the annual report are available from the U. S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling (202) 693-8673. For 2009 and subsequent plan years, you may obtain an electronic copy of the plan’s annual report by going to www.efast.dol.gov and using the Form 5500 search function. Or you may obtain a copy of the plan’s annual report by making a written request to the plan administrator. Individual information, such as the amount of your accrued benefit under the plan, is not contained in the annual report. If you are seeking information regarding your benefits under the plan, contact the plan administrator identified below under “Where to Get More Information.”

FUNDING NOTICE *continued on page 20*

Local Lines

Annual Motorcycle Run Benefit

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Local 6 recently bid a sad farewell to Warren DeMerrit. Warren, treasurer of Local 6 from 1958-1989, was a lifelong trade unionist and longstanding member of Local 6's Executive Board. During retirement, Warren served as treasurer for the Senior Sixes. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

The OSHA 10 requirement for all journey-level inside wiremen will be mandatory starting June 1. All supervisory personnel are already required to carry OSHA 30 certification within 180 days of promotion or hire. It is your responsibility to ensure you are in compliance.

We are in the midst of planning our 13th Annual Motorcycle Run, benefiting St. Anthony's Dining Room. This year's run will be May 11-13. It is a good time and an excellent cause.

John J. Doherty, Pres.

Plant Expansions & Projects

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Hello, brothers and sisters. I hope you and your family enjoyed our mild winter and I'm sure you all look forward to spring.

The numbers on the book have remained steady, holding at around 200. With the start of the Fermi outage, the upcoming Jeep plant expansion, the GM Powertrain expansion and the refinery work, we should start to see the numbers decline.

Congratulations to Bros. Al Arriaga, Robert Cunningham, Tim Hicks, Paul Szymanski, Chuck Wistinghausen and Anthony Young, who have all announced that they will be retiring this year. Collectively, they have well over 200 years of electrical experience. Enjoy your retirement, brothers!

The start of the new year also launches the beginning of the political season. It's a good time to keep in mind which politicians are friends of labor; your job may count on it.

Work safe!

Bryan Emerick, P.S.

'When it's Time to Vote Again'

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Congratulations to the 2011 inside wireman graduates: William T. Arthur, Clisten J. Bennett, Samuel E. Bourne, Danny R. Boyle, Samuel L. Graves, James D. Hughes, Zerrick M. Jensen, Preston A. Johnson, Anthony J. Kissel, Preston D. Kline, Brent A. Meinschein, Nathaniel J.

Nordenbrock, Elijah L. Pemberton, Heath A. Reininga, Damien W. Sparks, Lee M. Schoolfield, Travis T. Sims, Ross R. Smith, Jerrad W. Sprinkle, Timothy M. Stillions, James R. Stofleth, Brian M. Stute, Brian L. Tenney, Robert J. Wargel II, Brandon L. Wongngamnit. The John D. Brenner Memorial Award for outstanding apprentice went to Brandon L. Wongngamnit.

Jim Dewig was recently honored for his 30 years of instructing apprentices. He was one of seven instructors in the nation recently appointed to a special curriculum committee by NJATC Exec. Dir. Michael Callanan.

Thanks go out to thousands for their sacrifice of income and time to rally, phone, e-mail, and otherwise oppose so-called "right-to-work" legislation. This issue wasn't even mentioned during 2010 campaigns. Now Indiana has become the 23rd state to enact this harmful legislation. Labor must remember how little respect it was shown by certain current elected officials when it's time to vote again.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

'SyNErgy' Training Grant

L.U. 22 (i,rts&spa), OMAHA, NE—Local 22 and our Apprenticeship Training Committee have been active partners with Nebraska's Green Workforce "SyNErgy Grant." This is a \$4 million SESP (State Energy Sector Partnership) training grant with the Nebraska Dept. of Labor. The state asked training providers to offer training and certifications for green jobs and Local 22 has stepped up to the plate. We are offering training in: solar, BPI residential energy auditing, commercial and industrial energy auditing, electric vehicle infrastructure installation (EVITP), wind tower certification, instrumentation, and a craft construction "boot camp" that introduces lesser skilled workers to our trade. So far the project has been a huge success. Several of the boot camp participants have even been hired on as helpers with our low voltage contractors.

It has also been hard work, such that the Training Committee hired a full-time SyNErgy coordinator, Don Gerjevic. Don works closely with the local partnership and the Department of Labor and coordinates participants and teaches some of the classes. He has been very busy and his efforts are part of what makes the program a success for us. I recently took the solar class myself, and I implore all our members to sign up for these classes.

We are seeing legislation and businesses moving more toward energy efficiency and renewables. It is the future of our industry and we have to be ready!

Chris Bayer, P.S.

Springtime Activities & Events

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Spring in Washington, D.C., arrives with cherry blossoms in our beautiful city and, for Local 26, preparations for our annual Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing and picnics, scholarship winner selections and, this year, contract negotiations.

In addition, April 1 also marks the retirement of a longtime Local 26 employee, Nancy Gladwell, who has served as administrative assistant to the business manager since January 1980. We appreciate all her hard work and dedication over the past 32 years, and wish her many happy, healthy years of retirement!

The following members passed away since our last article: Larry Duby, Billy Trayer, Boyd Sims, Angelo J. Varron, Kenneth D. Hampton Jr., Charles L. Dursee, George E. Maloney, Matthew N. Godbolt and James Robert Bell.

Best wishes to the new retirees: William D. Blinkhorn Jr., John D. Connolly, Calvin R. Hodges Jr., Larry J. Hull, Stephen A. Maisch, Wilfred J. Wilson, William E. Yeatts, John Merkel, Frederick H. McCray, Donald R. Anders, Joseph J. Chillemi Jr., Patrick J. Flynn, Carl F. Krause, Shujia Ma and Donald L. Mallow.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Generosity of the Brotherhood

L.U. 34 (em,i,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL—Last December two of our members, working in a local factory, cut a live 13.8 kV armored cable. The resulting arc flash sent both to the local hospital with injuries. The member standing five feet farther from the flash received much lesser burns, was treated and released. Thankfully, he was back to work within a week.

The other member received second-degree burns and was life-flighted to the burn unit in Rockford. He spent a week there receiving excellent care and steadily recovering. By Jan. 11, he was at our monthly meeting giving an update and thanking all those who helped him and his family. He is expected to be back at work by April.

The amazing generosity and influence of the Brotherhood was evidenced by the treatment he and his family received while in Rockford. A special thanks to the office staff at IBEW Local 364 for booking a room at the union-built Rockford Radisson. And another special thanks to the hotel's owner, who appreciates the craftsmanship and value of union electrical work, for donating the room.

Sometimes, we do not create a dangerous situation, we inherit it. Despite following procedures, accidents can still happen. Always be careful.

Mark McArthy, Treas.

Downtown Cleveland Projects

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Pictured in the accompanying photo are Local 38 members, employed with US Communications & Electric Inc. and MAC Installations, who are working on the new 300,000-square-foot Horseshoe Casino in downtown Cleveland. The project has employed more than 140 of our members and should be open for business in the near future.

The summer looks good for work opportunities as the big downtown projects start to staff up at places like the East Bank Flats, Medical Mart and several of the downtown hotels.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.



IBEW Local 38 members at the Horseshoe Casino project jobsite in downtown Cleveland.

Trade Classifications

(as) Alarm & Signal	(ei) Electrical Inspection	(lctt) Line Clearance Tree Trimming	(mps) Motion Picture Studios	(rr) Railroad	(spa) Sound & Public Address
(ars) Atomic Research Service	(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(lpt) Lightning Protection Technicians	(nst) Nuclear Service Technicians	(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting	(st) Sound Technicians
(bo) Bridge Operators	(es) Electric Signs	(mt) Maintenance	(o) Outside	(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing	(t) Telephone
(cs) Cable Splicers	(et) Electronic Technicians	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(p) Powerhouse	(rts) Radio-Television Service	(u) Utility
(catv) Cable Television	(fm) Fixture Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(pet) Professional, Engineers & Technicians	(so) Service Occupations	(uow) Utility Office Workers
(c) Communications	(govt) Government		(ptc) Professional, Technical & Clerical	(s) Shopmen	(ws) Warehouse and Supply
(cr) Cranemen	(i) Inside	(mar) Marine		(se) Sign Erector	
(ees) Electrical Equipment Service	(it) Instrument Technicians				

Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.

Local Work Picture Strong

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—We presently have 401 “A” members and 439 “BA” members of Local 42. This does not include the 403 travelers we currently have working in our jurisdiction.

For our work picture Local 42 has a large transmission project of 100 crews. We also have a very extensive distribution project with 120 crews and 40 crews in various substations. I also would like to mention our Railroad and Traffic projects that are very busy as well.

The future work picture also looks very strong. Our tree division has continued to grow since our last two storms of 2011, as a result of Northeast Utilities’ increase in tree trimming.

IBEW Local 42 OSHE (occupational safety, health education) has also been very busy with lots of training classes at Local 42’s hall on the weekends. These classes include BLS (CPR) First Aid Pole Top/Bucket Rescue, Framing, Transformers, Rigging and Hand Signals, Hot Stick and OSHA 10 T&D, OSHA 30 and all other mandatory safety training. On Jan. 8, Local 42’s 20th Lineman Apprenticeship Boot Camp commenced.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

Talgo Members’ New Contract

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA—Securing an initial contract for the newly organized can be one of the most challenging tasks for employees. Employers know that the time period between an election and a newly signed collective bargaining agreement is their last chance to avoid the long-term organizing of their employees. Despite that challenge, Talgo On Board Technicians had the solidarity and patience to get their very own contract between themselves, IBEW Local 46 as their bargaining representative, and their employer Talgo.

These technicians work aboard the Amtrak Cascades trains and now have an agreement that secures their union representation, yearly wage increases and various benefits.

They were faced with many challenges. It took a year after signing cards before the NLRB authorized an election due to a jurisdictional question about whether they should fall under the National Labor Relations Act or the Federal Railway Labor Act. Despite the wait, they had a successful election and we began bargaining with their employer in the fall of 2010. After over a year of intensive bargaining, the unit voted to ratify a brand new agreement.

We welcome the Talgo On Board Technicians to our local union.

Angela Marshall, Rep.

Mike Cullen Honored by PSE&G

L.U. 94 (lctt,nst&u), CRANBURY, NJ—Mike Cullen, a longtime IBEW member and employee of PSE&G, received a special honor for his hard work and dedication to the job. Bro. Cullen is an 80-year-old crane operator who has been working for PSE&G for 56 years. He has 15 years at work without taking a single sick day. Wow! The president of PSE&G awarded Mike an all-expense paid trip and two tickets to the Super Bowl. Congratulations, Mike, from all of us on a well-deserved reward!

Some more encouraging news to share with all of you: PSEG Long Island LLC was selected by the Long Island Power Authority to manage LIPA’s elec-

tric transmission and distribution system. The contract includes targets to improve customer satisfaction and provide safe and reliable service for 1.1 million LIPA customers. It will begin Jan. 1, 2014, after a two-year transition period and run for 10 years. This is good news for the company, sustaining IBEW jobs in both New Jersey and New York. This agreement will also establish a new relationship between Local 94 and Long Island, NY, Local 1049. We look forward to working together.

Carla Wolfe, P.S.

A Century of Service Celebration

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rts&st), FRESNO, CA—Our local union was founded with a charter dated June 8, 1912, with 10 men as founders: B.M. Greenwood, C.B. Phillips, Claud Fowler, George Glass, T.C. Vickers, H.H. Courtwright, H.A. Carlson, F.S. Thomas, Charles Eyman and P.B. Brown.

We will celebrate a century of service to the central San Joaquin Valley on June 8, 2012, at the Fresno Convention Center, with a dinner and night full of entertainment, pictures, memories and memorabilia from the past. If you can contribute to the great history of Local 100 in the form of stories, pictures or memorabilia, please call the hall. Help us build this night to remember!

In the upcoming November 2012 general elections, all Californians will be asked to decide who will be able to participate in the democratic process. We must defeat a California ballot measure deceptively called “Stop Special Interest Money Now Act,” which would deny union members’ right to contribute to political elections. This corporate power grab is the third time the conservative right has tried to silence the voice of organized labor. We in the labor movement find this totally unacceptable. Do your part and VOTE!

Three new contractors were signed—G&H Electric, R&B Electric and Bringetto Electric—bringing 18 new members.

Think safety always.

M.A. Caglia, R.S.

Leading the Way in Green Technology Installation

L.U. 102 (i,o,em,mt,ws&govt), PATERSON, NJ—Members of Local 102 continue to showcase the talents possessed by an IBEW trained journeyman. As solar fields have sprung up throughout our jurisdiction, Local 102 continues to take a proactive approach in order to procure the work. As jurisdictional disputes continue on this work, as other groups promote the need for a new “green work



Aerial shot of a Frenchtown, NJ, solar project. Local 102’s NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) certified instructor Tony Maciorski shot the photo.



Local 104 officers and journeyman linemen assist with the 2011 Toys for Tots fundraiser. From left: Asst. Bus. Mgr. Gary Stacy, Ellis Wilkins, Organizer Chris Blair, Bus. Mgr. Tiler Eaton, Rec. Sec. Ernie Dechene, Pres./Organizer Jeff Place, Treas. Hugh Boyd, Kevin Place, Curt Levesque and Warren Chapin.

force,” our members and the IBEW continue to prove that we were trained in “green technology” long before the term became popular. We thank our membership for proving every day, when it comes to electrical work—the IBEW is the right choice!

Our JATC is also taking strides to keep pace with the changing landscape of our industry. Along with implementing the NJATC craft certification program several months ago, the JATC recently built a computer lab. The lab will fulfill the NJATC requirements for online testing utilized in the craft certification program as well as the aptitude test for new applicants. To further utilize the lab, the JATC has purchased a training program featuring the latest in 3D design software. Take advantage of the training opportunities your JATC provides.

Bernie Corrigan, Pres.

‘Toys for Tots’ Drive

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—Local 104 members collected hundreds of unwrapped toys and donations from all over our jurisdiction during the month of December last year and brought them to both union halls. Also at our December 2011 Christmas/Union meetings we collected \$3,000 from raffles for the year’s Toy for Tots drive for needy children in our communities. [Photo, above.]

Chris Blair, P.S.

Day School for Apprentices

L.U. 130 (i), NEW ORLEANS, LA—My apologies to Local 130 members for missing two previous deadlines for this publication. The local has undergone many changes since we last were represented in print here.

The local has since started a day school for apprentices. The startup of the day school was a combined effort of former training director M.J. Brannigan and our new Training Dir. T. Hughes. Congratulations to both men.

Bro. Brannigan is retiring from the work force and as director of training. Good luck and best wishes to Bro. Brannigan on retirement. Congratulations to Bro. Hughes on becoming training director.

The “apprentice of the year” for last term was Bro. Mike Kelly Jr.

This year brings changes for all of us as we elect a new president in 2012. Please, brother and sister members, educate yourselves on the upcoming political elections. Speak to our own Chad

Lagua, political liaison/educator, who can fill you in on all our endorsed political candidates.

The work situation is getting a little better. Bus. Mgr. Clay Leon expects more referrals as this article goes to press.

Pres. Chet Held appointed Bro. Timothy Moran as our new health and welfare trustee. Bro. Moran will do a good job as our new trustee and will put the interests of this local first when representing us at meetings.

Sandy Theriot, P.S.

Proposed Energy Project

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—We congratulate the following members, who were recently awarded their retirement watch: Dan Perrine, B.J. Taylor, Jim “The Governor” Thompson, Don Stiles and William Logue. Thank you for all your years of service and may your retirement fit you well.

The Illinois General Assembly was back in session in February. Senate Bill 678 (the Taylorville Energy Center) passed the Illinois Senate in November last year—and at the time of this writing the bill was pending a vote in the House. Keep watching our Web site or Facebook page for updates on the bill. Until we know for sure, the work picture will be rather slow here.

Our sincere condolences go out to the families of three Local 146 members who recently passed away, Robert Mintler, Danny Fritts and Charles “Lester” Hayes. May we always cherish our brothers’ memories and their service to the IBEW.

Remember to attend your union meeting; there is always some good advice to be had. Work safe, work smart, buy American, and buy union-made products. The job you save may be your own.

Correction: The Local 146 article in the February 2012 issue of The Electrical Worker misstated the new name of the Local 146 apprenticeship program. The new name is Midstate Electrical Training Center, not Midwest.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

‘Good-bye to Old Friends’

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Times are still tough. The economy is still in the toilet and the work picture bleak. Most of us are worried about how to pay for the most basic of necessities and put gas in our old cars. All we can do is keep putting moving forward and doing our best.

Local Lines

As 2011 came to an end we took a moment to remember the members we lost during the past year: Scott Murphy, Bradley Everett, Slim Kidd, Al Jemlick, Don Cowgill, William Beins, Tony Allen, Rich Schubert, Art Bandman, George Eberhardt, Keith Lothar and Guiseppe Tziano. It is always difficult to lose members and the depth of experience and stories represented by these people. They were all good men who helped contribute to making our local into what it is today. Godspeed.

The JACT is again offering journeyman up-date classes both in the evening and the day. Such a great opportunity to learn something new, brush up on past knowledge and earn continuing education credits. Please make every attempt to take advantage of these classes.

The local picnic is scheduled for Aug. 18, 2012, at our usual spot at the Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda.

See you at the meeting.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

2012 Another Busy Year

L.U. 160 (lctt,o&u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—2012 began where 2011 left off. There is much work in the entire state of Minnesota. Wind farms continue to generate a large amount of the work. Minnesota is in the top five in the U.S. for total wind powered generation.

There is also a great deal of work associated with CAPX-2020. CAPX-2020 is a huge utility infrastructure upgrade that involves most if not all of the major power companies in the region. It has also helped to employ many workers from Local 160 and the IBEW.

2012 is also an important political year. Please remember to vote for labor-endorsed and labor-friendly candidates in upcoming elections this year.

Keep the union momentum from states like Wisconsin and Ohio going strong.

James P. Brereton, P.S.

2,800+ Years of Pride

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew proudly handed out service pins at our unit meetings this past winter and it was quite astonishing that these brothers have served a combined total of more than 2,800 years for the IBEW.

Members who received pins are: For 45 years - Bob Maloy, Jim Davis Jr., Jon Wolf, Lon Scott; for 40



Local 280 Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew (left) presents former Executive Board member Wayne Lathrop his 40-year service pin.

years—Jack Wieland, Robert Fisher, Robert Wilson, Wayne Lathrop, Frank Cross, Jim Sahr, Tommy Paul, Michael Stoffel, Tim Mitchem, Kelly Martin, Tim Nicol, Steve Bebout, Bob Salle, Max Schumacher, Jeff Scofield, Dan Campbell, Jerry Sheffield, Jimmy Coulson, Philip Liermann, William Ped, Bill McCall, Audie Castro, Tom Baumann, Gary Layton, Mike Mathis, Stan Penrose, Brad Johnson, Larry Taylor, Russ Rice, Dough Aljets, Craig Perkins; for 35 years—Bill Coburn, Pete Parker, Ed Rubesh, Darrell Eaves, David McFarland, Richard Kessel, Ted Pratt, Ray Lipsit, Craig Nelson, Gene Bloodworth, Carl Gioia, Ron Ernst, Steve Todd, Mel Andrews, Denny Ellis, Elwood Lindquist, Anthony Ritter, Steve Rose, Stephen Paisley, Mike Sweeney, Bernard Lecompte, Joe Everall, Mike Grohs, Glen Campbell, Gerry Hatleberg, Dan Palanuk Gerald Miller, Gaston Gray, Mark Taisey, Eric Scofield, Doug Palmer, Mike Peterson, Steve Hatleberg, Fred Varner, Doug Free, Dennis Swisher and Tony Baucum.

All of us in Local 280 say thank you!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.

Stand Up for Minnesota Workers

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—At this writing, contract negotiations are coming up and the membership is providing valuable input to the Negotiations Committee before they meet with NECA; the current two-year contract expires in the second quarter of 2012.

The local's first Snowball Dinner and Dance was a success. More than 100 couples from Local 292 enjoyed a delicious buffet, live music and dancing. The local plans to make this an annual event. We thank everyone who attended and put this together, and we invite the membership back next year for the second annual Snowball Dinner and Dance.

The Minnesota state legislature has proudly withstood the so-called "right-to-work" barrage for 60-plus years, defending the right for all workers to have representation. As the detractors are pushing their agenda forward in the media and at the state Capitol, we are educating our members and their families on how to discuss the labor movement with other Minnesotans. Gov. Mark Dayton has long supported Minnesota workers, but the proposed constitutional amendment by referendum would bypass the governor's office.

Work is still slow in our jurisdiction, and we thank all the other locals that are putting our traveling members to work.

Carl Madsen, P.S./B.R.

Vermont Yankee Plant & Solar Installations

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Vermont Yankee nuclear plant was given the green light by the Vermont court system to continue its present course of operation. After lengthy battles against the state's efforts to close the plant, IBEW members prevailed and will have the opportunity to continue working and fighting for another day.

The merger between Vermont utility giants Central Vermont Public Service and Green Mountain Power continues to be a focus for Local 300, not to mention the many organizations looking to get a piece of the pie. Local 300 is posturing itself to develop and execute the best deal possible for all the union's members.

Shown in the photo (at top, right) are IBEW



Local 300 members complete a solar installation project. From left, back row, Jamie Derouchie, Chad Bell, Stuart Dezotell, Curtis Beechum, Rodrigue Beland, Alexandria Shilo, Rodney Campbell, Joseph Ask, Joshua Farnsworth, Mark "Alex" Walker; front row, kneeling, Albert Campbell, Adam Bilodeau, Carmel Kelley, Mike O'Shea and Gen. Foreman Paul Metruk.

Local 300 members who completed a 940-panel solar installation during the bitter winter months. Local 300 members worked for signatory contractor Peck Solar on the roof of CP Smith elementary school after completing a 208 kW solar photovoltaic installation at the City of Burlington school districts.

Local 300 wishes all locals a safe and prosperous construction season.

Jeffrey C. Wimette, B.M./F.S.

Marsh Landing PLA Project

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—Work has finally started on a big project for us. The 760-megawatt natural gas fired Marsh Landing Power Plant, a Citizens United for Reliable Energy PLA project, is finally under way after many years of negotiations and several hurdles. Our local members received a craft-based safety crew of the month award.

Our 2011 Annual Holiday Party was a huge success. Approximately 400 people attended and our members' kids enjoyed all the holiday snacks and crafts. Our local also "adopted" several families living in a local shelter and provided them with

holiday presents. Our in-house benevolent organization, WYESMEN Inc., adopted a family, provided four members' families with cash for the holidays and delivered the presents to the shelter.

Our Political Action Committee is gearing up for the big election cycle and at press time we have several state and local races, as well as the presidential election, to get ready for. Additionally, we must defeat yet another right-wing assault on our ability to spend money on elections. A ballot initiative called "Stop Special Interest Money Now Act" would strip union members' rights to contribute to political elections.

Paul Doolittle, P.S.

IBEW Local's Donation to City

L.U. 304 (lctt,o&u), TOPEKA, KS—On Jan. 4, proud members of IBEW Local 304 presented the City of Hoisington, KS, with a name plate that will be placed on the donated picnic table that members bought for the good people of that community. Pictured below is the local's presentation to city officials.

The table is made of 100 percent recycled rubber and is provided in part with a grant from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) waste tire program. The picnic table will be on the east side of the Scout Hut/Friendship Meals facility. Members' wages, throughout the state of Kansas, are what made this possible for the citizens of Hoisington. Partnering together since 1942, IBEW Local 304 and the City of Hoisington have long shared a good working relationship.

We are sad to report the passing of several



IBEW Local 304 stewards Robert Lowe (left) and Gary D. Smith (right, foreground) make presentation to city officials of Hoisington, KS.

members: Dwight Pierce, Dennis Gifford, Brian Garretson, Frank O'Neil, Marc Teske, Buck Rockhold, Paul Snyder and Kevin Pyle.

Paul Lira, B.M.

'Important Election Year'

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—2012 is one of the most important election years in recent history. We will be campaigning hard in Ohio to elect or re-elect labor friendly candidates in state and federal races including members of Congress and the president.

Add to that, the ongoing fight to prevent Ohio from becoming a so-called "right-to-work" state and we see just how important this year is. Through an organized effort in 2011, we defeated SB 5. If we stay united, we can win again.

Service awards were presented at our December 2011 meeting. Receiving awards were: 65-year members Will Mallory and William Monchak; 60-year members Lawrence Bryner, Rhonald Fleet, Anthony Monteforte, John Staton and Terry Sweitzer; 55-year members Charles Engelman, Robert Frank, Courtney Macdowell and John Scafidi; 50-year members Richard Cooley and Edward Meyer; 25-year members James Adams, Larry Borth, Craig Dutton, Scotty Flaker, Jeff Gardner, Patrick Haag, Thomas King, Dennis Owen, David Popa, Timothy Ray, Jeff Richey, Christopher Sellman, Kirk Shemuga and Mike Turnbull. Congratulations to our honorees!

With sadness we report the loss of Bros. James Norris and Frank Oreolt, and retired Bros. Robert Trettel and Howard Shafer. We send our condolences to their families.

Thomas Wright, Chmn./P.S.

Member Involvement Increases

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—Local 332 has trained several new mentors as a way to connect the wisdom of current members to newer members who will carry the union into the future. We thank all our dedicated members for keeping the craft and our union strong.

The Member-to-Member Program training was held in late February. The program is well on its way to increasing membership participation even further. More details to come.

Local 332's jurisdiction is proud to be the new home of the 49ers football team. The new stadium will be built in Santa Clara. Work has begun on parking structures, and the Stadium Authority hopes the stadium will be finished in time for the 2014 NFL regular season. Welcome 49ers!

Another large-scale project on the horizon is the \$900 million project labor agreement for a BART train expansion. This project will bring a much-needed public transportation route to our area and will last through 2017. Train service is scheduled to begin to San Jose in 2018.

Our local has been using social media and the Web site to inform members of the positive things our U.S. president has done for labor, such as NLRB appointments, the "Employee Rights" notice about the right to unionize, and the push for PLAs on federal construction projects. It is not easy to counter the opposition's propaganda campaign, filled with half-truths and outright lies, but it must be done early and often if we are to prevent disaster for working families.

David Bini, Organizer

2012 EWMC Conference Held in Oakland, CA

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—The 2012 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus held its annual national meeting in nearby Oakland this year and we sent 10 delegates to the conference the weekend before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to take part in a day of community service and to honor Sister Robbie Sparks, one of the original founders of the EWMC.

This was an extraordinary opportunity for our delegates because we are in the process of forming a Sacramento EWMC Chapter and getting an official charter. The delegates met many other EWMC brothers and sisters from across the county who shared their ideas, hopes and goals for the EWMC. Several delegates who had attended past conferences met up with old friends, and the first-time attendees forged new friendships and connections.

After attending all the weekend events, our delegates came away very enthusiastic about being involved in Local 340's new EWMC Chapter.

Thanks go out to Local 595 Bus. Mgr. Victor Uno for organizing the sister locals in co-hosting a Northern California IBEW Reception for delegates and guests on Friday, Jan. 13. It was a great event.

I regret to report the passing of two retired members: Brother Roy Heacock and Brother Donald Rogers.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

Habitat for Humanity 2011

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—Specht Electric was approached for the Sheboygan Habitat home in the summer of 2011. I received a call from Scott Specht asking if membership would be interested in volunteering for the project. I knew they would and made the presentation to the membership at our union meeting. With 10 volunteers we easily completed the project from rough-in to trim-out. A special thanks to Gary Dawson for running the project; your time and effort are greatly appreciated. Also, a thank-you to Specht Electric for donating tools, equipment and materials to complete the project. Our membership and contractors at Local 494 believe in giving back to the community where we live and work. This is one of many ways we have done so.

John Jacobs, B.R.



Habitat for Humanity personnel (at left) thank IBEW Local 494 volunteers, beginning seventh from left: Mike Gradinjan, Gary Dawson, Steve Schobert, Mark Meyer, Mark Diener, John Jacobs and Christopher Burgin. Volunteers not pictured: Lynn Haase and Dale Dulmes of the IBEW; and Kyle Dawson.



IBEW Local 570 members attend high voltage splicing class.

Tribute to Charter Member

L.U. 498 (c,catv,em,i&spa), TRAVERSE CITY, MI—At this writing the work outlook in our area remains challenging. We are hopeful for 2012 to be a better construction year in our jurisdiction.

The annual Santa party was held at the hall again last year and had a great turnout as always. Thanks go out to all those who helped prepare food, organize the event and help with the cleanup.

On a sad note, our local recently lost retired charter member Orange Hinds. Orange was a veteran of World War II who served in Britain, France, Holland and Belgium as a member of the U.S. Army's 969th Engineer Maintenance Company. Orange worked as an electrician for many years with Davis Electric and Grand Traverse Electric. During that time he served as the financial secretary for IBEW Local 498. He was a devoted family man who enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing and watching sports. Our condolences go out to his family.

Timothy R. Babcock, P.S.

High Voltage Class & Yuma Work

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ—Thanks to Essco Wholesale Electric supply house, Bob Jones & Associates, and 3M for putting on a high voltage splicing class for our members. In attendance were Local 570 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Bill Wimer, Local 570 Pres. Tom Berry, Examining Board member Russell Wind and members Michael Davison, Ed Elliott, Tonio

Lopez, Jess Newsome, Leroy Romero, Brian Sterrett, Rick Torchia Jr. and Bruce Stump.

With work at Arizona Western College and the First Solar project, we were able to organize some new members in Yuma, AZ.

Conti Electric is wrapping up Phase 1 of the First Solar Agua Caliente Project about 60 miles outside of Yuma and two new contractors have picked up projects at the Yuma Marine Corp Air Station. This will give a handful of our members who live in the Yuma area another chance to work close to home.

Scott W. Toot, Organizer



Local 636 retired Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Rick Wacheski (left) greets Bernie Fishbein, Ontario Labour Relations Board chair, at the celebration in honour of Rick's retirement.

'Big Shoes to Fill'

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—After a lifetime of dedicated service, Bro. Rick Wacheski has shifted focus from collective agreements to crossword puzzles. We wish him happiness and good health in his retirement. In a 45-year journey with the IBEW, Rick helped lead the battle for workers' rights and social justice. He has served with honour and integrity. For more than two decades, Rick led our local as business manager/financial secretary and he leaves behind a proud legacy. During his distinguished career, Rick earned a reputation as a firm but fair advocate respected by all. No doubt he will soon again put his talents to work as he and his fellow retirees come under attack from the Harper government.

Also retiring is Bro. Allen Gates, who can now relax by the ocean rather than making waves. Vigilant in his commitment to improve the quality of life for workers, Allen has been a tireless and tenacious activist—a leader who has made a positive difference. His wit and wisdom will be missed. Allen can now enjoy his love of music and share this gift with others as he begins a long and happy retirement.

To our brothers, we say thanks for your dedicated service and we hope good things follow wherever life leads you.

Paddy Vlanich, P.S.

Local Lines

'Miracle League Fields' Project

L.U. 648 (em,i,spa&u), HAMILTON, OH—The work picture has really slowed down in our area, but some of our members have been fortunate to find work in other locals and we are appreciative of the work.

Local 648, along with our NECA partners, found a great local project to support and we feel very fortunate to be involved. The Miracle League Fields—a dream of local legend and player/broadcaster for the Cincinnati Reds, Joe Nuxhall—is a baseball complex for handicapped children and adults. The fields will be rubberized to allow for safe play. The fields will also be lighted and have special accommodations for players and their families. This has been a dream of the Nuxhall family to build such a project.

IBEW Local 648 and NECA pledged to supply all labor and material for the electrical portion of this project. As of this writing, the temporary service and most of the site work and pole foundations are done. We hope for a midsummer opening.

This is a great opportunity for fellowship and goodwill in our community and to show everyone what the IBEW is all about.

Jeff McGuffey, P.S.

Spring Labor Golf Classic

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—Members of the COPE committee went to the Virginia General Assembly on Jan 29-30 to speak with legislators on issues critical to union and working families across the Commonwealth. At the time of this writing, there are still a number of bills pending that are of great concern for organized labor and the middle class.

The Central Virginia Labor Federation-sponsored Spring Labor Golf Classic will be held May 19 at Jordan Point Country Club. Please join in for a great day of brotherhood and golf! For more information see www.va.aflcio.org/centralva/.

The third annual Local 666 Poker Run to benefit the Neighborhood Resource Center is in the planning stages as of press time. The event will be held in April. Watch the Local 666 Web site for updates at www.IBEWlocal666.com.

Also on the Local 666 Web site, there are links to union-made and American-made products. Check it out and help stimulate our own economy!

Recent Local 666 retirees include: Leonard W. Biddix, Neale W. Kelley, David L. Payne, Eddie W. Harris, Donald S. Currie and Stella Knighton. Best wishes to them all!

Charles Skelly, P.S.

Energy Campus Project

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—We recently completed our first Journeyman Signaling and Rigging Certification classes to prepare for the 2014 OSHA standard.

Dennis Hamburger received the award of Southern Illinois University Physical Plant Employee of the Year out of 450 employees. Congratulations, Bro. Hamburger.

The Prairie State Energy Campus project will be winding down in May 2012, five months ahead of schedule. In Bechtel Construction's 100-plus

years of business, this Code of Excellence job has been one of their best. We thank all of our members and our traveling sisters and brothers for all their help to make this project a success.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

100th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—Hello, brothers and sisters. I hope all are well and hopefully work is picking up in your area. We still have numerous members on Book I, but we are hopeful for more work to break soon.

Our local's 100 Year Anniversary Celebration was a huge success. With many activities for the membership and their families there was plenty of fellowship and brotherhood. The golf tournament, the family outing, and the Saturday night reception were big hits, along with the all-day birthday party that ended at 7:16 p.m. Congratulations for a job well-done go out to the 100 Year Committee and to all the members who helped with this great event.

We also thank the members who helped represent Local 716 at the Houston St. Patrick's Day parade, where Local 716 defended its title as the 2011 Green Derby Award winner, and at the Cesar Chavez parade.

At press time, the last of the continuing education classes for Code Update are rapidly approaching as well as the upcoming primary elections. Local 716 encourages all members and their families to register to vote.

If you are not a part of the Local 716 Death Benefit Fund, or the Sick and Accident Fund, we encourage you to join.

John E. Easton Jr., B.M./F.S.

Union Volunteers Aid Charities

L.U. 776 (i,o,rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—This past Christmas our local set a record in our food and toy collections. Thank you to all of our members and their families who helped fill the boxes that filled our hall. Due to the economic stress of the middle class, local charities are suffering all across the nation—but thanks to our members, both the Florence Crittenton Home for Unwed Mothers and My Sisters House for Battered Women received a much welcome truckload of food staples and toys for the women and their children seeking refuge at the shelters.

Our local LMCC sponsored the Lighthouse display at the James Island Holiday Festival of Lights. This joint IBEW-NECA venture shined the "light of unionism" on the 250,000-plus people who attend the festival each holiday season.



Local 702 service pin recipients: Emerson W. Mings, 70 years of service; John C. Neal, 60 years; Jack D. Miller, 55 years; and James R. Burke, Harry L. Dillingham and Jerry E. Williamson, 50 years of service.

We are saddened to report that the following members passed away in 2011: Preston Brock, Wayde A. Bowick, Donald "Roy" Craven, Billy H. Cockcroft, Thomas W. Emory, Ralph A. "Bob" Ferrell, Joseph F. Ferri, Charles "Cecil" Holly, Bobby J. "B.J." Lawson and John P. Lewis. And early this year, member Benny D. Gleaton passed away. They will all be greatly missed.

Chuck Moore, B.M.

'Day of Action' for Workers

L.U. 804 (i&o), KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA—On Jan. 21, supporters rallied behind Canadian Auto Workers locked out from Electro-Motive Diesel in London, Ontario. EMD is a subsidiary company of the industrial giant Caterpillar. Caterpillar's final offer of contract talks was a 55 percent wage cut along with the cancelling of benefits and pension contributions. CAW Local 27 rejected the offer and the workers were locked out the first of January. The CAW as well as the London and District Labour Council, Ontario Federation of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Council organized the "London Day of Action against Corporate Greed."

A small troop of IBEW Local 804 members attended the Day of Action alongside brothers and sisters from IBEW Locals 120, London; 530 Sarnia; 773 Windsor; 105 Hamilton; and 353 Toronto. Special thanks go to IBEW Local 120 Bus. Mgr. John Gibson for the hospitality in providing a meeting place before and after the rally.

Dino Celotto, P.S.

IBEW Community Involvement

L.U. 840 (i), GENEVA, NY—The work picture in our area has remained slow, but that hasn't dampened our spirits or our resolve to turn the corner. The spring looks pretty good because of that attitude.

Newly elected Bus. Mgr. Mike Davis has asked the new E-Board and members to get more involved with their local union and their community, and our members have responded. We volunteered to help our area baseball team, the Geneva Red Wings, to renovate their team locker rooms. We are also working with the United Way to donate money and time to do work in our community. Through our LMCC we donated a scholarship for clean room training to Finger Lakes Community College. The idea behind this is to continue to provide businesses in our area with the trained, skilled work force necessary to expand and they will come. Building these relationships can only help us tell the community what we have known all along: Local 840 members care and are vital to neighborhood success.

In the spring we also hope to break ground on our new training facility and finally wrap up a project labor agreement on the Canandaigua Airport expansion. Hope all other locals have a prosperous 2012.

Charles Randall, E-Board



Local 968 Bus. Mgr. Lyn Lovell (left), Charlie Rush, Bob Patton and Fourth District Int. Rep. Gregory D. Gore.

2011 Christmas Luncheon

L.U. 968 (catv,i,mt,o,rts,spa&t), PARKERSBURG, WV—IBEW Local 968 handed out 120 fruit baskets and turkeys to the retired members and widows at the Annual Christmas Basket Luncheon last year. The luncheon is a long-standing tradition to show our appreciation to the retirees and gives them an opportunity to see friends, reminisce and tell stories of old times enjoyed together.

Robert "Bob" Patton received his 50 Year Member Award. He began his career with the IBEW in 1961 with Gorrell Electric. Bob served on the Executive Board, as apprenticeship instructor (1975-1985) and was vice president (1986-1992). Bob retired from Newco Electric in 2001.

Charles "Charlie" Rush received his 65 Year Member Award. Charles started working for McHenry Electric in 1943. After working a few months Charles went into the U.S. Navy serving from 1943 to 1946. Charles was part owner of McHenry Electric for 32 years when he and his partner retired selling the company in 1987.

In 2011 Local 968 lost retired members Wilmer "Curly" Duer, Edward "Bud" Kehrer, James Riggs, Norris Lemon and Donald Williams.

Lyn Lovell, B.M.

'208 Years of Brotherhood'

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Our local wishes a happy retirement to recent retirees: Gary Gaulin, 20 years of service; former president Jeff Martin, 30 years; Galen DeWitt, 38 years; and Richard Fisher, George Lucas and Bob Mattis, 40 years. Together they represent a combined 208 years of IBEW membership! They take many years of experience and craftsmanship with them and we thank them all for being a part of our union. We know there will be lots of fishing, golfing, motorcycle cruising and road trips in their future but they earned it.

At the January 2012 monthly meeting, several brothers received 30-year pins and certificates. Members with 30 years of service include: Bros. Steve Spencer, Larry Bieberstein, Warren McElyea, Ed Hermosa, Richard "R.C." Cavaletto, Greg Carter, Christopher Costello, John Florence, Cary Greenelth, Gary Sanford and Ron Stamper.

Trico Electric members recently ratified a new three-year contract and the local is gearing up to start negotiations with Asplundh Tree Experts (expires December 2012), Unisource Gas (expires June 2012), three Southwest Energy Solutions contracts (expire December 2012), Springville Generation Station & Tucson Electric Power (expire January 2013).

We can't stress enough the importance of attending local monthly meetings to hear how these negotiations are going. In a state where the Senate

and House are more anti-union than ever, we must be aware of and support political leaders who support our union goals for a working America. Build union—buy union.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

JATC Graduates & Awards

L.U. 1316 (f&o), MACON, GA—Macon Electrical JATC graduated three journeyman wiremen in 2011—Bryan Weathers, Chris Aeschliman and Kenneth Logan—announced Training Dir. and Local 1316 Pres. Ralph Snowden. Chris Aeschlimann received the Morgan Bowen Award, presented by Macon Electrical JATC, for outstanding performance during the five-year period of apprentice training.

On Jan. 3, Local 1316 held its quarterly Retirees Breakfast and Awards/Pin ceremony. Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Johnny Mack Nickles on behalf of the local congratulated award recipients: Ricky Scott, Tommy Foster, Fred Yeomans, Richard Dunn, James Harrington, Doug Ruffen, Harry Evans, Jack Harley, Royce Alday, Homer Aspray and Eddie Hendricks. There were also 14 family members present for the ceremony.

Michael H. Gardner, P.S.

Three-Year AEP Agreement

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—At the January monthly union meetings, Local 1466 conducted a vote on whether or not we should accept the three-year Master Agreement negotiated with American Electric Power. After much discussion and debate our local voted to approve the AEP agreement. On March 2, the other IBEW locals on System Council U-09 voted to approve the offer as well.

The union hall renovations that were approved by the membership have also started. If everything goes according to plan the work should be completed soon. The renovations have spurred talk of a possible increase in rental fees for non-members in order to bring in additional revenue for our local. This is something that will continue to be discussed going forward.

Finally, please remember to attend your monthly union meetings so you can have a part in shaping our local.

Jimi Jette, P.S.

Service to Community

L.U. 1944 (t), PHILADELPHIA, PA—The Allentown/Wilkes-Barre office of IBEW Local 1944 took up a collection at their office and decided to help one of the many community organizations in their county. Several members of the Allentown/Wilkes-Barre office presented a \$50 gift card to a representative of the area Domestic Violence Abuse Shelter.

Following in the footsteps of their fellow union members (from New Castle & Allentown), it was announced to this reporter that another office of IBEW Local 1944 also collected funds to provide assistance during the 2011 holiday season. Altoona donated a \$50 Weis gift card to the local Domestic Abuse Shelter for their use in helping those less fortunate.

George W. Greiner III, R.S.

A Career of Union Service

L.U. 2150 (em,govt,lctt,o&u), MILWAUKEE, WI—On July 31, 2011, Forrest Ceel resigned as Local 2150 business manager due to health reasons. Forrest spent almost his entire career involved in organized labor. The only non-unionized job he held was that

of paper carrier. For Local 2150, he served as steward, unit chair, Executive Board representative, president, and became Local 2150's first lobbyist in Madison, WI.

In 2000, Forrest was hired as business rep for Local 2150. In 2007, he was appointed to fill one of three assistant business manager positions. In March 2009, the Local 2150 Executive Board appointed Forrest to succeed Dan Sherman as business manager/financial secretary. In June 2009, the members of Local 2150 elected Forrest as business manager/financial secretary.

Most recently, Forrest was actively involved in the political "firestorm" in Madison, WI, which brought national attention to not only Wisconsin, but also to organized labor in February and March 2011. His dedication to the labor movement and the collective bargaining rights for public sector workers kept Forrest in Madison day and night.

Forrest's contributions to the labor movement will benefit the lives of Wisconsin's working people for years to come. Local 2150 wishes him the best.

Nancy Wagner, P.S.

IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP

AWARDED ONLY TO IBEW MEMBERS

The IBEW Founders' Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in a field that will further the electrical industry overall (as determined by the Founders' Scholarship Administrator). The maximum distribution is \$24,000 per person over a period not to exceed eight years.

RULES FOR ENTRY

Eligibility Checklist

Founders' Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an honorary withdrawal for four years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.
2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman or general chairman.
3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant's achievements and abilities.
4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.
5. A complete résumé is required. The résumé should outline the applicant's education and work history; military service; special honors or awards; and involvement in union, civic, community or religious affairs.
6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay (typed and double spaced). The title and topic must be: "How I Will Use My Founders' Scholarship to Benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Electrical Industry."
7. Materials need not be sent at the same time but all must be postmarked prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

Selection of Winners

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness and career goals. The independent Founders' Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional and community representatives.

They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in *Electrical Worker*.

Responsibility of Each Founders' Scholar

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in the term immediately following receipt of the award or in January of the following year. Each term's earned grades must be sent to the Founders' Scholarship Administrator together with a Founders' Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founders' Scholar paper is due. The paper must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the school. If a serious life situation arises to prevent continuation of studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of one academic year.

APPLICATION

Name _____ Telephone # (____) _____
Please print or type

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip/Postal _____

SS/SIN # _____ Birthdate _____ Member of local # _____

Card # _____ Initiated into IBEW _____
On IBEW Membership Card or Dues Receipt Month/Year

Most recent employer _____

Job classification _____ Work telephone # (____) _____

Proposed field of study _____ Degree expected _____

Note: Field of study must contribute to the development and improvement of the electrical industry as determined by the Founders' Scholarship Administrator.

School (list your first and second choices)
First _____ Second _____

Did you complete high school or the GED? Yes No

Send transcripts or other evidence to the Scholarship Committee.

Did you take apprenticeship or skill-improvement training? Yes No

Send transcripts to the Scholarship Committee.

Do you have any education certificates or professional licenses? Yes No

Send evidence to the Scholarship Committee.

Have you taken any college courses? Yes No

Send transcripts to the Scholarship Committee.

Name used on class records _____

The creation of this scholarship program is a free act of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The IBEW retains its right to alter, suspend, cancel or halt the IBEW Founders' Scholarship Program at any time and without giving any reason, provided that each scholarship winner already in school under the program will continue to receive the stipends until graduation or the receipt of \$24,000 for undergraduate study under his/her IBEW Founders' Scholarship (whichever comes first).

My signature is evidence that I understand and agree to all the rules governing the scholarship as listed on this application.

Signature Date



Mail application materials postmarked prior to **May 1** to:
IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
900 Seventh Street, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Form 172
Revised 02/11

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in February 2012

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Crouther, O. R.	1/9/12	38	Abdelshahid, M. H.	11/23/11	125	Carlson, F. E.	1/3/12	271	Davis, W. E.	11/14/11	456	Halliday, T. B.	11/2/10	665	Buehler, T. A.	1/11/12
1	Gearhart, R. H.	12/18/11	38	Jasany, J. J.	1/19/12	125	Clapper, D. L.	10/26/11	271	Edwards, H.	12/29/11	463	Fuller, H. W.	1/8/12	665	Hall, R. D.	10/15/10
1	Greubel, J. A.	1/20/12	38	Kenneley, E. M.	1/5/12	125	Converse, H. R.	1/13/12	278	Clark, M. W.	1/9/12	474	Bennett, S. E.	11/22/09	665	Putnam, G. R.	1/6/10
1	Knoten, R. L.	12/23/11	38	Loeding, M.	12/24/11	125	Evans, R. E.	10/8/11	278	Westfall, R. E.	1/6/12	474	Dancer, C. E.	11/8/11	666	Radvany, S. B.	9/7/11
1	O'Neill, G. L.	1/1/12	38	Pokorny, T. M.	1/8/12	125	Furgason, J. K.	1/13/12	280	Ruth, D. L.	8/14/11	474	Gavrock, M. A.	12/7/11	673	Lange, R. E.	12/6/11
1	Richmond, A. L.	1/20/12	38	Saunway, J. A.	12/5/11	125	James, D. R.	11/1/11	280	Wygle, C.	12/23/11	474	Goe, W. P.	11/25/11	682	Fussell, G. W.	1/2/12
3	Altomare, J.	12/7/11	38	Sirkin, A.	12/31/11	125	Jones, A. G.	12/30/11	292	Bergland, M. E.	1/10/12	474	Holland, F.	11/10/11	683	McNally, R. E.	12/27/11
3	Barrett, J. J.	1/30/12	38	Wise, T. L.	8/19/11	125	Showerman, D. E.	12/27/11	292	Stahlmann, H. C.	1/15/12	477	Baker, R. L.	11/22/11	688	Kelly, T. D.	12/17/11
3	Caminiti, P. F.	1/18/12	41	Carriero, D. P.	12/27/11	126	Rebar, A.	1/13/12	295	Seiter, L. S.	12/20/11	479	Langton, J.	12/28/11	692	Schabel, K. L.	12/24/11
3	Catalano, D.	11/12/11	41	Donahue, P. A.	8/30/09	127	Gulliford, G. W.	1/28/12	303	Slowinski, J.	1/3/12	480	Magee, D. W.	1/6/12	697	Courneya, M. J.	12/20/10
3	Eckert, E. F.	1/31/12	41	Egloff, R. F.	12/8/11	130	Borel, J. F.	12/30/11	304	Snyder, P. F.	12/30/11	481	McKnight, C. H.	1/7/12	697	Schrump, J. P.	11/19/11
3	Galamore, R. L.	11/17/09	41	Heisler, J. F.	10/3/11	130	Duvielh, C. L.	12/19/11	305	Distelrath, R. J.	1/2/12	481	Statzer, M. S.	1/5/12	700	Gregory, D. E.	1/2/12
3	Giammaria, P.	1/3/12	41	Meyer, N. H.	1/29/12	130	Federer, E. E.	1/11/12	306	Oreolt, F.	1/2/12	488	Waupotic, J. H.	8/13/11	701	Bronski, S. J.	11/19/11
3	Hansen, N. R.	11/11/11	43	Coe, K. W.	12/22/11	131	Fouch, D. A.	12/26/11	309	Johnson, R. J.	12/30/11	488	Zeilik, M.	11/13/10	701	Pennington, A. G.	12/24/11
3	Kolnberger, M. R.	1/21/12	44	Denzin, R. A.	1/7/12	134	Amir, M.	5/1/10	313	Megonigal, W. F.	12/19/11	494	Batzler, J. J.	9/6/09	701	Wanek, D. J.	11/22/11
3	Lamour, F.	1/5/12	46	Bain, G. E.	12/2/11	134	Capizzi, A. G.	12/29/11	313	Pawlowicz, J. J.	1/4/12	494	Madritsch, J. R.	12/31/11	702	Wilson, C. A.	11/21/11
3	Maduske, W.	12/21/11	46	Forman, J. R.	1/5/12	134	Delarentis, M. F.	11/24/11	317	Ellis, W. F.	12/28/11	494	Maley, T. M.	3/9/11	712	Honaker, C. A.	1/31/12
3	McGill, J. G.	8/27/09	46	Moll, S. D.	1/2/12	134	Disbrow, E. A.	1/2/12	317	Flaugher, W. B.	11/1/11	494	Mueller, H. K.	12/7/11	712	Rust, H. J.	12/6/11
3	Mitchell, W. T.	6/25/11	48	Loe, E. W.	12/28/11	134	Fishman, H.	11/24/11	318	Kerns, K. L.	1/4/12	494	Rode, W. C.	12/15/11	712	Santangelo, P. A.	12/31/11
3	Pepe, F.	1/31/12	50	Shafer, R. L.	12/15/11	134	Fleck, E. F.	11/8/09	332	Munoz, C. W.	4/3/11	499	Wallace, D. W.	1/13/12	714	Herberg, H. F.	12/11/11
3	Perillo, J.	12/1/11	56	Fogle, C. J.	10/22/11	134	Graczyk, G.	1/10/12	332	Walz, V. J.	12/26/11	518	Hocking, H. J.	11/23/11	714	Johnson, D. L.	12/5/11
3	Reade, H. C.	10/19/11	58	Barrett, R. F.	11/11/11	134	Hammond, G. W.	12/31/11	340	Heacock, R.	12/15/11	520	McDaniel, M. W.	11/24/11	716	Frank, H. A.	1/3/12
3	Ricker, R. T.	11/21/11	58	Dannunzio, F. B.	1/8/12	134	Healey, E. W.	6/29/11	343	Dilworth, M. L.	10/2/11	527	Cottingham, G. C.	1/19/12	716	Fuller, A. V.	1/14/11
3	Tantillo, P.	11/29/11	58	Krauer, J. H.	12/23/11	134	Jennings, W. A.	12/26/11	349	Cooper, D. B.	12/29/11	531	Butler, W. L.	1/20/12	716	Holt, K. A.	12/1/11
3	Tual, L. A.	11/6/11	58	Murphy, J. M.	10/27/11	134	King, R. M.	1/8/12	349	Desmond, D. J.	11/9/11	531	Smith, C. I.	4/1/11	716	McGehee, R. A.	12/9/11
3	Ward, F. A.	1/5/12	58	Rogerson, J. W.	1/7/12	134	Mancoff, P.	11/28/10	349	Diaz, A.	12/11/11	540	Beadle, D. M.	12/4/11	716	Murphy, K. H.	1/8/12
3	Weinberg, G.	1/7/12	60	Brown, C. D.	12/27/11	134	McCarville, T. P.	4/20/10	349	Gilliam, W. O.	1/4/12	540	Williamson, F. E.	11/13/11	716	Wind, C. L.	1/6/12
3	Whalen, J. M.	1/5/12	66	Brasfield, G. G.	11/3/09	134	Quirk, D. J.	1/14/12	349	Underhill, R. H.	4/3/09	553	Sizemore, A.	11/10/08	721	Rogers, K. L.	1/6/12
5	Oswald, A. C.	1/8/12	66	Ezernack, M. M.	12/18/11	134	Salemi, J. E.	10/14/11	350	Helton, A. E.	12/20/11	557	Foster, C. D.	1/5/12	725	Deiisle, B. E.	1/3/12
5	Plance, D. W.	11/6/09	73	Engebretson, D. L.	12/9/11	134	Stathakes, G.	12/21/11	351	Reed, E. B.	9/4/11	557	Richard, E. P.	12/18/11	728	Adolphson, M. T.	1/29/12
6	Bondietti, M.	1/23/12	76	Bevill, R. E.	11/26/11	134	Taymor, H.	12/5/11	353	Balanoff, V.	9/27/11	557	Rogers, B. L.	12/5/11	743	Rhodes, W. D.	1/9/12
6	Demeritt, W.	1/22/12	76	Deweyert, D.	11/23/11	134	Woods, M. R.	10/7/11	353	Bondarewski, A.	12/21/11	558	Crunk, L. E.	12/1/11	753	Brown, J. W.	12/29/11
6	Lee, W. K.	1/17/12	77	Frye, R. D.	12/25/11	136	Anderson, P. J.	12/18/11	353	Cappiello, G.	2/4/12	558	McDow, P. E.	5/30/11	760	Forsythe, T. N.	12/30/11
7	Agerton, S. H.	1/2/12	77	Jensen, H. O.	12/1/11	136	Goodwin, C. K.	1/21/12	353	Cholewinski, B. G.	1/10/12	558	Rickard, D. J.	1/9/12	760	Prince, J. S.	11/27/11
8	Stoner, G. R.	11/27/11	77	Roulier, B. L.	12/31/11	139	Patton, C. B.	1/2/12	357	Espaniola, G.	12/12/11	567	Walker, M. N.	12/27/11	760	Walton, A. E.	12/26/11
8	Vansickle, C. M.	11/8/11	80	Sharp, P. E.	1/2/11	145	Godwin, H. E.	10/20/08	357	Harrity, J. E.	7/15/11	569	Anderson, C. D.	12/17/11	768	Thrush, L. E.	12/14/11
9	Cloud, J. W.	7/20/11	80	Thomas, C. V.	10/6/11	146	Hayes, C. L.	1/23/12	357	King, A. A.	1/19/12	569	Atkinson, H. R.	12/28/11	776	Kelly, C. M.	9/10/09
9	Kane, J. P.	1/14/12	82	Morrison, J. L.	12/15/11	146	Shell, J. L.	2/9/10	357	Lee, C. H.	12/31/11	569	Christian, G. W.	1/29/12	812	Bryant, P. A.	12/22/11
9	Selzer, D. R.	12/11/11	84	Woodall, J. R.	2/28/10	150	Dagel, H. E.	12/24/11	364	Barklow, M. D.	12/30/11	569	Holland, C. E.	1/10/12	813	Cawley, W. C.	10/26/11
11	Beierle, C. F.	6/13/10	86	Gerace, R. F.	1/17/12	150	Murphy, S. N.	1/2/11	364	Tongue, M. R.	1/3/12	569	Whittaker, R. C.	6/3/09	816	Smith, L. E.	12/22/09
11	Chaddick, J. W.	6/30/10	86	Hartung, D. G.	7/19/11	150	Tiziano, G.	11/30/11	369	Bailey, J. R.	12/10/11	570	Perez, A. B.	12/15/11	816	Walker, L. D.	12/15/11
11	Evans, M. J.	8/19/09	86	Kubek, J. J.	1/3/10	153	McGlothlin, F. R.	1/27/12	369	Chambers, E.	1/1/12	584	Baines, W. A.	10/18/11	841	Watley, G. W.	12/3/11
11	Reyes, A. V.	12/12/11	86	Newman, R. F.	12/3/11	160	Rosckes, S. R.	1/12/12	369	Dunn, J. R.	10/29/09	584	Campbell, L. D.	6/4/11	852	Dickerson, R. O.	12/31/11
11	Roy, R. E.	11/14/11	90	Simcik, J. A.	1/7/11	164	Allan, W. T.	12/13/11	369	Fusting, W. S.	11/8/11	584	McCarty, J. E.	11/30/11	852	Knight, D. L.	12/20/11
11	Schultz, M. P.	12/31/11	96	Crowley, P. L.	1/18/12	164	Hague, A. T.	11/29/11	369	McDonald, J. H.	1/5/12	584	Moses, H. L.	10/24/11	855	Cowgill, C. E.	12/5/11
11	Stanyar, J. D.	1/1/12	96	Sanford, D. W.	7/27/11	175	Day, F. H.	1/22/12	369	Rich, D.	3/5/11	586	Belanger, J.	3/1/10	861	Gothreaux, M. H.	10/8/11
11	Takayasu, S. S.	1/31/10	98	Carabajal, C. L.	12/26/11	175	Hoover, J. S.	6/13/11	380	Lackner, R. F.	11/4/11	586	Darragh, D. J.	10/26/11	861	Johnson, J. W.	12/1/11
11	Tamayo, R. A.	1/10/12	99	Facha, C. V.	11/13/11	176	Reeves, S. W.	1/8/12	382	Harris, R. C.	8/15/11	586	Foldesi, J.	11/13/11	861	Pinney, G. E.	1/14/12
11	Weiss, B.	1/17/12	99	Sloan, J. M.	12/28/11	176	Stalzer, K. L.	11/3/11	387	Beck, D. L.	11/18/11	595	Briester, H. C.	12/6/11	873	Lloyd, D. H.	10/31/11
11	Windsor, E. G.	6/1/10	102	Kennedy, J. R.	1/4/12	177	Bowen, T. J.	1/9/12	387	West, J. W.	12/30/11	595	Hague, S. M.	3/1/10	885	McLaughlin, J.	1/18/12
14	Holberg, L. W.	12/11/11	103	Finn, P. P.	11/18/11	177	Siegler, R. W.	8/3/09	388	Dibble, W.	11/30/11	601	Clements, H.	11/18/11	889	Marquez, F. S.	1/25/12
17	Green, D. B.	12/16/10	103	Haley, J. T.	1/23/12	191	Boechler, J.	12/8/11	400	Grace, T. W.	1/4/12	602	Beams, D. E.	11/10/11	898	Lee, B. G.	11/14/11
17	Schefka, L.	1/14/12	103	Hanlon, D. F.	11/1/11	191	Harrison, R. A.	12/10/11	401	McGlothlin, R. N.	7/16/10	606	Coomer, C. A.	12/16/11	903	Pickett, J. T.	11/26/11
17	Tomlinson, J. C.	1/14/12	103	Lawless, D. J.	11/23/11	191	Jacobson, G. O.	1/19/12	401	Ross, L. B.	9/5/11	606	Hamburg, R. S.	12/25/11	915	Baum, C. F.	11/30/11
18	Daniels, M. V.	1/13/12	103	Lepore, A. R.	12/25/11	193	Codron, A. L.	12/30/11	402	Kuismin, R.	12/30/11	611	Brown, E.	12/11/11	915	Pearson, A. G.	8/3/11
18	Kanemoto, A. B.	9/23/09	103	Morrison, R. H.	12/25/11	193	Pollard, R. E.	12/5/11	413	Hartvig, P.	1/13/12	611	Duran, N. B.	12/30/11	915	Tuvell, J. F.	1/25/12
18	Snyder, H. E.	12/29/11	103	Watson, J. T.	1/7/12	196	Bomback, E. R.	12/9/11	424	Greening, L. M.	1/22/12	611	Sparks, D. O.	1/12/12	917	Elliott, D. C.	11/24/11
20	Hamontree, H. H.	12/30/11	103	Zarella, L. J.	1/1/12	196	Neeley, M. C.	12/20/11	424	Sweeney, S. P.	12/22/11	611	Wilson, B. P.	12/13/11	934	Clark, G. B.	10/15/11
20	McNeil, C. M.	12/6/11	110	Dabe, J. C.	8/4/11	212	Texter, L. R.	1/22/12	429	Fly, C. D.	1/1/12	613	Bartsch, E. H.	12/22/09	948	Floyd, J. R.	12/15/11
22	Hoffman, G. J.	12/28/11	110	Johnson, D. G.	10/1/11	222	Van Riper, J. C.	10/30/11	429	Frick, L. L.	10/25/10	613	Black, H. F.	12/5/11	952	Coffey, D. H.	12/8/11
24	Fields, V. D.	1/7/11	111	Grosshans, M. C.	1/29/12	223	Flynn, J. E.	1/26/12	429	Pickney, P. A.	1/7/12	613	Duncan, M. S.	1/2/12	952	Doty, J. L.	11/20/11
24	Frazier, J. E.	1/19/12	111	Medlen, G. M.	1/26/12	223	Hruniak, F.	1/15/12	429	Reed, E. L.	1/13/12	613	Johnston, J. S.	1/9/12	965	Kolar, R. F.	12/30/11
24	Kahler, C. H.	12/22/11	112	Gore, J. L.	12/30/11	226	Jensen, D. O.	10/25/11	429	Shelby, W. M.	1/10/12	613	Moats, W. T.	12/25/11	984	Kirstein, V. L.	11/28/11
24	Neidert, W. E.	10/21/11	115	Peterson, V. C.	12/21/11	231	McClary, R. C.	12/12/11	429	Whitfield, J. W.	1/17/12	613	Yearwood, R. T.	3/16/09	993	Chioccarello, L.	11/7/11
25	Berg, A. C.	11/4/11	115</														

Local	Surname	Date of Death
1260	Kaina, J. K.	10/30/11
1316	Williams, R. W.	10/20/11
1319	Albert, B.	12/1/11
1319	Chalmers, N.	12/9/11
1377	Johnson, F. M.	12/26/11
1393	Sipe, K. G.	11/28/11
1547	Dalzell, R. G.	1/8/12
1547	Kometz, G. L.	12/29/11
1547	Mellard, M. D.	11/27/09
1547	Smith, J. L.	3/7/10
1547	Swanson, F. W.	8/17/11
1547	Vaughn, F. W.	11/10/11
1579	Brown, D. W.	1/7/12
1579	Murphey, A. M.	1/29/12
1687	Stepath, L.	1/12/12
1837	Cote, A. L.	11/11/11
2085	Kunzig, W.	12/9/11
I.O. (3)	Shapiro, R. D.	8/21/11
I.O. (97)	Kobielski, E. J.	12/19/11
I.O. (110)	Gamboni, T. M.	10/12/11
I.O. (134)	Falbo, C. R.	12/17/11
I.O. (363)	Simko, A.	11/28/11
I.O. (852)	Long, J. R.	12/31/11
Pens. (637)	Bolton, K. H.	2/13/12
Pens. (637)	James, D. H.	1/24/12
Pens. (640)	Lambert, J.	12/4/09
Pens. (1340)	Martin, G. E.	1/11/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Adams, C. J.	12/12/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Boober, K. L.	1/7/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Chenier, F. X.	1/9/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Cooley, L. R.	12/6/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Crail, J. P.	12/16/10
Pens. (I.O.)	Dammann, J. E.	1/4/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Diegel, J. H.	1/10/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Drawdy, J. L.	11/30/09
Pens. (I.O.)	Emerson, R. D.	12/21/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Entwistle, W. A.	11/17/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Faas, R. T.	12/19/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Farmer, B. E.	1/8/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Goeke, G. J.	12/19/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Gutowski, A.	1/11/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Hill, D. B.	1/11/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Holm, C. W.	12/19/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Hook, W. B.	10/11/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Hower, E.	12/16/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Hucks, C. A.	1/6/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Johnson, C. H.	1/9/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Keck, R. J.	12/23/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Kennedy, G. C.	1/4/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Klein, L. F.	12/14/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Limanni, B. A.	12/10/11
Pens. (I.O.)	McCutcheon, G. W.	12/7/11
Pens. (I.O.)	McMichael, T. J.	12/18/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Morrow, J. A.	1/8/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Myers, D. L.	11/16/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Olsen, R. P.	1/8/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Pierce, R. T.	4/4/10
Pens. (I.O.)	Pierce, S. G.	12/9/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Poorman, R. D.	10/21/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Ramsey, J. E.	12/9/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Reich, V. F.	1/7/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Scharnau, P. E.	8/13/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Simpson, P. R.	1/23/12
Pens. (I.O.)	Veach, T. J.	8/23/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Vogt, C. C.	12/8/11
Pens. (I.O.)	Wolf, M. B.	10/29/11



IT'S BACK!

It's the determination in a lineman's face when he climbs to vertigo-inducing heights. It's the glint of sunshine reflecting off an icy transmission tower. It's in the images all around you, that you see in your day both on and off the job. And we want you to share them.

The popular competition is back after last year's hiatus when leaders, members and staff were gearing up for the 38th International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. This year's event will be the 15th contest since its kickoff in 1997.

So grab your camera and see what develops. Because excellence in the trade yields more than just a job well done—it can be a work of art.

DEADLINE: OCT. 31, 2012

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

PRIZES

- 1 FIRST PLACE \$200**
- 2 SECOND PLACE \$150**
- 3 THIRD PLACE \$100**
- H HONORABLE MENTIONS \$50**

Name _____

Address _____

City and state _____

Zip code _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Local union number _____

IBEW card number _____

Photo description _____

PHOTO CONTEST RULES:

- The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter more than one photo.
- International Officers and staff are not eligible.
- Photos can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or prints. The preferred print size is 8x10.
- All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.
- Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
- If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g. a safety committee, a linemen's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
- Photos previously published in IBEW publications or the Web site are not eligible for submission.
- All entries must include a completed contest entry form. Please note that photo entries may be submitted through the IBEW Web site at www.ibew.org.
- Please fill out the contest entry form and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest and mail it to the **IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001**.
- Fifteen finalists will be selected and posted on www.ibew.org for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in the January 2013 issue of the Electrical Worker.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

The *Electrical Worker* was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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FROM THE OFFICERS**A Fickle and Frustrating GOP Field**

Edwin D. Hill
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As the Republican nomination contest continues to roll on, most candidates can't trip over each other fast enough to blast unions, working families and the agencies and laws that protect them.

Ahead of Super Tuesday March 6, Newt Gingrich slammed Rick Santorum for his reluctance to support a national right-to-work amendment, which was heresy to the former House Speaker, who has called for defunding the National Labor Relations Board.

Not to be outdone, Mitt Romney, the self-proclaimed son of Michigan who scorns President Obama's rescue of the auto industry, said the NLRB was "stacked with union stooges selected by the president" who are hell-bent on destroying businesses and hurting working folks. And Ron Paul continues his quixotic campaign calling fair-share dues check off "unconstitutional" while touting credentials from the National Right to Work Committee.

Of all the contenders, Romney, who offered to bet another candidate \$10,000 during a debate, is starting to come across like the one who loathes working people and unions the most.

Except when he doesn't.

In recently circulated video of the candidate speaking on the eve of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the biggest job of his career, Romney praised the efforts of Salt Lake City IBEW Locals 57 and 354 for wiring 500-foot, mega-wattage Olympic Rings on a mountainside overlooking the city.

"The work was done by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers ... they worked up there, they put on the snow shoes, they treaded up there to help us," Romney said. He even said, "Thanks, President Ed Hill."

Romney's flip-flops boil down to a simple truth. They like us when they need us. But when they don't, they throw us away.

The conventional political wisdom is that this election will be about jobs and the growing gap between the haves and the 99 percent. But our nation is slowly rising out of the recession. As the U.S. auto industry rebounds and more construction projects kick off, that gives Romney and the other candidates heartburn. They now must convince the very workers they lambaste as being "coddled by their unions" to rally round their "dump President Obama" campaign. Just when many of us thought social "wedge" issues were drying up in the presidential race, they came roaring back.

The Republicans spent much of the primary season arguing about issues like abortion, gay marriage, birth control and the separation of church and state. Of course, these are important topics that informed citizens should be knowledgeable about. But are they distracting us with these controversies because they know that their jobs plans are illusions? You decide.

Regardless of how we may feel about any of these divisive issues, we have to dig deep and soberly evaluate who stands with us as union men and women, and who stands in our way of holding on to our hard-won, middle class lives. We have to honestly ask ourselves if any of these candidates has a plan that would make us—individually, and as a nation—more fiscally sound and fairly compensated four years down the line.

Romney's remedy for our nation's economic problems is to slash taxes on greedy corporations, promote more so-called free trade agreements and make project labor agreements on major government construction projects a thing of the past. His vision is of a low-wage work force without the tools to successfully negotiate better standards of living.

Romney and the other Republican candidates have repeatedly gone on record opposing everything that we stand for—from fair wages to having a voice in the workplace to a shot at a decent retirement. They're good at whipping up emotion—but when people vote purely out of frustration and without careful, reasoned analysis, bad things happen.

This GOP slugfest is unfortunate, because it overshadows a bevy of local and state races that will shape everything from our city halls to our governors' mansions to Congress. We have to get involved, stay energized and pay attention at all levels.

In the meanwhile, let's not forget who is likely to wind up being at the top of the ballot in November. Romney might like you when he needs something built right the first time—but beyond that, you're *persona non grata*. They all like us when they need our votes and can hoodwink us away from the more pressing kitchen-table issues of family economics.

But would any of them like us as trade unionists on Day One as president? I don't think even Mitt would like to make another \$10,000 wager on that one. ■

**HOW TO REACH US**

We welcome letters from our readers. The writer should include his or her name, address and, if applicable, IBEW local union number and card number. Family members should include the local union number of the IBEW member to whom *The Electrical Worker* is mailed. Please keep letters as brief as possible. *The Electrical Worker* reserves the right to select letters for publication and edit all submissions for length.

Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Or send by e-mail to: media@ibew.org

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Letters to the Editor

Wisdom from the Rearview Mirror

I'm a journeyman lineman who retired at 65 with 32 consecutive years in good standing. I worked for many contractors from California to Maine to Florida to Washington State. I could never understand the people who whine about paying taxes! The U.S. has the largest armed forces in the world and the most expensive interstate highway system, which I put 400,000 miles on to get to good paying jobs. I was only out of work three months in 14 years.

Watching the politics of the U.S., I don't understand union members who vote to defeat their own welfare.

Now, putting your politics in military form, if I had said that the main objective was to defeat or get rid of the captain of the ship I was to serve on, that would be cause for court martial or mutiny or treason! It is a mystery how Sen. Mitch McConnell isn't censured from Congress. In the service, no matter your judgment of the person, you respect the flag and the uniform, no matter who is representing it.

As far as I'm concerned, voting for right-to-work candidates would put a lot of members out of work. I have worked nonunion (Alberta, Canada) with the threat of firing held over employees' heads.

The way you keep the wages up and brotherhood strong is by supporting all unions. Vote accordingly, work safe, do a good journeyman's job, keep up with technology and innovation, keep a positive work ethic and earn your wage so your employer stays in business.

William A. Winacott
Local 258 retiree, Ormiston, Saskatchewan

One More Smartphone Tool

I am not a IBEW member, but a partner of a IBEW member. I see you got an iPhone app [available for Apple and Android users], thank you so very much for this.

I was also seeing in The Electrical Worker paper that you have no QR code for smartphone readers to get right to your paper on their phones.

I have attached a red QR code that links right to your newspaper once scanned. I feel this would further your communication greatly with smartphones and iPads.

Feel free to use at your discretion. It has been an honor to help out the IBEW in such a small way and to further the IBEW cause.

Brian Michaletz
Johnson City, N.Y.

(Thanks for the QR code. It works, folks, try it! We plan to develop one for the May issue of the Electrical Worker. Also see page 3 of this issue, where we have a QR code for our new video page on Vimeo.)



List of Retirees?

I enjoy reading our union paper. It is always a good source for what's happening around our great country. I was a union fireman before I changed career paths, now I am a journeyman lineman. I would like to request that we list recent retirees in the back of the Electrical Worker newspaper. It could state their name, age, years of service, local and what utility they worked for. This I feel is a nice send-off to a career of service!

Mike Karalis
Local 66 member, Houston

(Editor's Note: The International Executive Council approves pensions at each quarterly meeting. We print minutes of each meeting in the Electrical Worker but because the IBEW processes an approximate average of 400 pensions a month, such a list would occupy too much space in a printed 20-page newspaper. But all of those names—listed by local union number—are available on the IBEW Web site, www.ibew.org, by clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page.)

Who We Are

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to media@ibew.org.

The blog post below appeared on RenewableEnergyWorld.com in memory of Las Vegas Local 357 member Heather Andrews, who died on Feb. 8.

In Memory of @PVAddict: Heather Andrews (1978-2012)

By Tor 'Solar Fred' Valenza

For those who follow me regularly here on Renewable Energy World, this post will be quite personal, so my apologies in advance for straying somewhat from solar marketing and advocacy, though not completely.

My friend, solar installer, and solar PV instructor Heather Andrews died on Wednesday, Feb. 8, after complications from brain surgery. She was only 33.

For those performing daily solar work, I think we can often underestimate our effect on this industry, but to me, everyone who contributes to putting more solar power into the world is special, and when I know them personally, their sudden loss is naturally felt even more deeply.

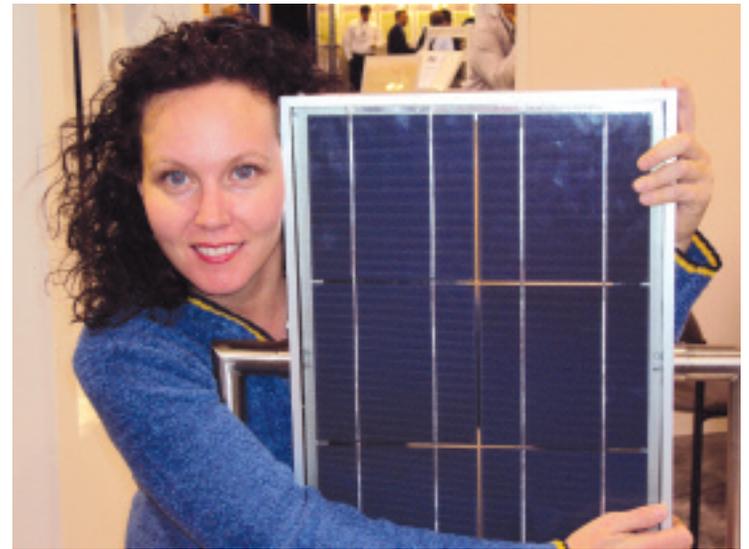
Heather was fairly well known in the solar social media community. Heather went by the Twitter handle @PVAddict, and if there actually is a clinical solar PV addiction, Heather had it.

When I first joined Twitter, there were very few solar pros there, so it was easy for us to find each other with a quick "solar" hashtag. And when I saw "@PVaddict," that was a Twitter handle that I had to know. It really was easy to get to know Heather, and not just because she was beautiful and a solar Twitter spitfire. She was just an open, friendly, and curious person, as well as a working example to young women wanting to put on gloves, get on a roof and install solar.

Heather was one of a handful of woman journeyman electricians, a proud union member of Las Vegas Local 357. She spoke technical solar, and would righteously recite passages from the NEC. Shame to anyone who tried to sneak a solar PV electrical work-around. If there was one thing that Heather could hate, it was sloppy electrical work and code violations.

Not only did Heather speak solar, she spoke several other languages. If you were lucky to be one of her friends on Facebook, you'd see her posting about solar, music, and protecting women and children in Korean, Spanish, French and Japanese, and I think I've also heard her speak German.

I hope you're getting a sense now for what a beaming solar light she was on paper, but it's only an outline of what she was in person. You have to imagine a 5' frame and a non-stop brain that was always observing details, asking questions



Las Vegas Local 357 member Heather Andrews was a solar enthusiast and promoted the renewable energy source via Twitter.

and making quick jokes. She talked really fast, and was not afraid of heights, pets or dark beer ... in moderation, of course. She may have been small, but Heather had a vice-like hug that she wrapped around students, colleagues and new friends. She was so solid and so strong, and it is heart-breaking that those who knew her will never be hugged like that again.

Say what you will about the disconnectedness of social media, but I promise you that Heather genuinely connected to me and to many others in her virtual—global—social networks, and that made her a very powerful solar advocate and people connector.

Heather had a rare but curable condition called Chiari Malformation, as well as another rare blood disorder commonly referred to as APS. The Chiari was the most serious, but typically treatable.

The treatment was a brief cranial surgery that seemed to go well. Heather tweeted from her hospital bed soon after, but every time they released her, she returned to the emergency room within a day. After three months and many more surgeries, the doctors couldn't find a solution to why her body kept producing too much cerebral spinal fluid, increasing pressure on her brain. She eventually passed into a coma and left us for a sunnier world.

Her last post on Twitter was on December 15th: "Still alive #SolarTribe, just fighting complications. Working toward full Twitter reintegration by the new

year...I miss tweeting #solar!" I only got to see her briefly once at the hospital with her fellow PV installer, teacher, and friend, Guy Snow. She could still give me a vice-grip squeeze to my hand.

Through the end and during her solar career, Heather was supported by her family, especially her mom, Janice Andrews, and her great friend and solar colleague, Guy Snow. They were by her side daily, and they generously kept Heather's many local and long distance solar friends updated on her status through Facebook.

You may not have known Heather Andrews personally, but she was a great example and symbol of our solar industry. If you are a solar installer or PV teacher, Heather was one of you. If you're a solar advocate, she was one of you. If you're a parent who lost a child prematurely, or you're an animal lover, or defender of abused children and abused women, she was part of your tribe too. So, I hope that you will honor Heather by sending a first, or one last message to @PVaddict on Twitter.

Thank you for allowing me to share Heather's story. Perhaps not surprisingly, she elected to donate her organs, so she will literally live on in others. In lieu of flowers, per Heather's request, donations can be made in her name to the following: APS Foundation of America, Conquer Chiari, RAINN and Child Haven.

Thank you for reading, and thank you, @PVaddict. RIP. ■

Workers, Consumers Raise Concerns Over Verizon Wireless/Cable Deal

The IBEW and the Communications Workers of America are criticizing a proposed joint venture between Verizon Wireless and major cable companies that they say will stifle competition and kill jobs.

In January, Verizon Wireless announced plans to purchase \$3.6 billion worth of spectrum from a consortium of top cable providers, including Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Bright House Networks and Cox. If approved by the Federal Communications Commission, the telecommunications giant would begin offering “quad” play—combined video, Internet, voice and wireless service.

In comments to the FCC filed by both unions, they say: “The 1996 Telecommunications Act was premised on the expectation that there would be increased competition ... and consumers would benefit from increasingly robust choices for the video, wireless, voice and broadband services. The commission is evaluating a transaction that would appear to reduce such competition by FiOS and cable companies.”

Critics, which include competing telecommunication companies and public interest organizations like Public Knowledge, say that the deal would create a near-monopoly for Verizon Wireless, eliminating any effective checks on the company’s ability to raise prices. They also say that they are concerned that the purchase would end the expansion of Verizon’s high-speed fiber optic FiOS service.

“FiOS is the only all fiber optic network to homes and small businesses, but it is a direct competitor to Comcast, Time Warner Cable and other cable companies,” says Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department Director Martha Pultar. “If this deal goes through, Verizon will lose any incentive to develop FiOS.”

Ending the FiOS build-out would not only negatively affect the many communities without access to the service, but would also harm the economy as a whole. According to economists Robert Crandall and Hal Singer, investments in broadband, DSL and cable modem tech-

nology added \$16 billion to the economy, creating more than 250,000 jobs from 2003 to 2009. And they estimate that investments in broadband could create upwards of 250,000 jobs by 2015.

“The [deal] will result in less overall network investment than if Verizon and the relevant cable operators continued to compete to build out their own wireline and wireless platform,” says the IBEW in comments prepared for the FCC review. “Less competition results in fewer jobs.”

The deal is currently under review by both the FCC and the Department of Justice. On March 7, the commission ordered Verizon Wireless to make more of its commercial agreements related to the deal available to the public.

“This is a bad deal all around,” says IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. “It is bad for workers who will see anti-worker companies like Comcast get an unfair advantage in the market, bad for consumers who will see their bills rise and bad for communities that desperately need investment in high-speed fiber optics.” ■

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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National Electrical Benefit Fund

continued from page 9

Summary of Rules Governing Plans in Reorganization and Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans. The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. Under so-called “plan reorganization rules,” a plan with adverse financial experience may need to increase required contributions and may, under certain circumstances, reduce benefits that are not eligible for the PBGC’s guarantee (generally, benefits that have been in effect for less than 60 months). If a plan is in reorganization status, it must provide notification that the plan is in reorganization status and that, if contributions are not increased, accrued benefits under the plan may be reduced or an excise tax may be imposed (or both). The plan is required to furnish this notification to each contributing employer and the labor organization.

Despite these special plan reorganization rules, a plan in reorganization could become insolvent. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan’s available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC, below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan’s financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option. This information will be provided for each year the plan is insolvent.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only benefits that you have earned a right to receive and that can not be forfeited (called vested benefits) are guaranteed. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11.00 of the plan’s monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33.00 of the accrual rate, times each year of

credited service. The PBGC’s maximum guarantee, therefore, is \$35.75 per month times a participant’s years of credited service.

Example 1: If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$500.00, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant’s years of service (\$500.00 / 10), which equals \$50.00. The guaranteed amount for a \$50.00 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11.00 plus \$24.75 (.75 x \$33.00), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 (\$35.75 x 10).

Example 2: If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of \$200.00, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20.00 (or \$200.00 / 10). The guaranteed amount for a \$20.00 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11.00 plus \$6.75 (.75 x \$9.00), or \$17.75. Thus, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 (\$17.75 x 10).

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In calculating a person’s monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under the plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan’s termination or insolvency (or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency). Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee pre-retirement death benefits to a spouse or beneficiary (e.g., a qualified pre-retirement survivor annuity) if the participant dies after the plan terminates, benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, or (301) 556-4300. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor’s name and employer identification number or “EIN” is Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, 53-0181657. For more information about the PBGC, go to PBGC’s website, www.pbgc.gov. ■